

Hafa Adai!

Man gets 36 days for beating girlfriend. **PAGE 7**
NMC offers courses to help build workforce. **PAGE 8**

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75¢

Massive water fraud exposed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter disclosed yesterday the discovery of massive water fraud taking place on Saipan, citing an unaccounted loss of thousands of gallons of water per day.

Citing a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water tank service area that serves a population of 2,954, Carter said there is an estimated 872,000 gallons of water that is lost every day.

"Where's the 872,000 gallons of water going? Some could be pipe leaks and some could be from theft," the judge said.

See WATER on Page 4



SENATE SESSION

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), center, is in discussion with Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), left, and Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) during a short recess in yesterday's Senate session while Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) and Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) converse in the background.

ERWIN ENCINARES

'Dynasty liabilities now over \$325M'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The total outstanding liabilities of the owner of the defunct Tinian

Dynasty Hotel & Casino has now climbed to over \$250 million, excluding the \$75 million in civil penalties assessed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial

Crimes Enforcement Network.

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. chair Chun Wai Chan disclosed that this increases

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INSIDE



NATION

House minority leader Nancy Pelosi stages an eight-hour speech.

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U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is pouring cold water on the warming Korea ties.

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LIFE & STYLE

For Ryan Coogler, "Black Panther" came down to: What does it mean to be African?

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Better Together

Local

NMC says it is ready to face Senate

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is ready and looks forward to providing the CNMI Senate with information on how it uses local and federal funds.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said she looks forward to providing the information that Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) asked for in a letter to NMC dated Feb. 6, 2018.

In the same statement, Fernandez

said that NMC has seen "tremendous progress" on several capital improvement projects made on the campus, such as the completed renovations of the NMC Student Center, NMC student cafeteria, NMC School of Education, School of Education Curriculum and Resource Center, NMC Bookstore, and many more.

Working from a "student first" approach when choosing priorities for the college, Fernandez said she is grateful for "Senator Quitugua's and other legislators' support

as we help our students reach their educational goals, expand training opportunities, and build the CNMI through a robust local workforce."

Quitugua's letter revolved around NMC's participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Alternative Pilot Project, which uses public assistance grant funding awarded to NMC for

the construction of new facilities instead of repairing old ones.

Fernandez pointed out that it was FEMA that gave NMC funds for the rehabilitation of the NMC

Gymnasium, which was rendered unusable when Typhoon Soudelor ravaged the CNMI in August 2015.

According to Fernandez, the new facility can accommodate 2,000 people and can be used for multiple purposes beyond sports, to include professional activities, graduations, concerts, and even for emergency activities. She plans to share this information with members of the Senate Committee on Education and Youth Affairs at their Feb. 21 meeting.

Fernandez

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Torres names many to key positions

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Friday appointed several individuals to several key positions in the CNMI, including one re-appointment to the Commonwealth Development Authority board.



Torres appointed Joaquin H. Borja to the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors to represent Tinian, Jesus M. Tudela to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, Wayne K. Sanchez to the State Workforce Development board representing Tinian, and the re-appointment of Ignacio L. Perez to the CDA board of directors.

While all appointments require Senate confirmation, Sanchez's appointment to the workforce development board does not require Senate confirmation and therefore became effective immediately.

Saying Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog also supports his appointment, Torres told Sanchez in his letter that he trusts that Sanchez would be a good fit for the federally mandated board focusing on workforce development of the CNMI.

"[Hocog] and I have every confidence that you will conscientiously devote your time and efforts to carry out the functions of the board as mandated by U.S. Public Law 113-128," said Torres.

Tudela would be taking up former education commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon

Guerrero's slot on the NMC Board of Regents. His appointment is set to expire this April 10, 2018.

Borja was appointed to take up MVA board member Juan Barcina's slot, which expires soon.

Perez is re-appointed to the CDA board. Perez was also the CDA representative to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board due to a past agreement between the two agencies.

Torres also announced last Friday his appointment of James Benavente and Benjamin Borja to the long stagnant Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

Hocog, in his capacity as acting governor, also appointed five individuals to key posts on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2018.

He appointed Joseph Hocog to the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, representing Tinian.

Susan M. Perez was named to the CNMI State Behavioral Health Planning Council, representing Tinian.

Julie Sablan was appointed to the Commonwealth Library Council, representing Tinian.

Stanley Benavente was named to the Statewide Independent Living Council, while Carla A. San Nicolas was appointed to the Statewide Independent Living Council.

None of these five appointments require the consent of the Senate.

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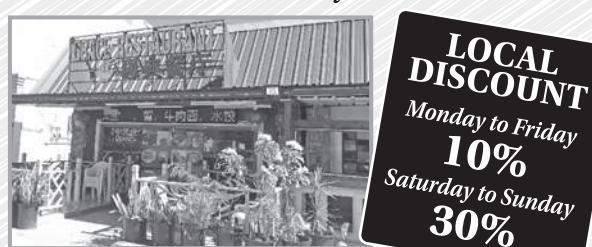
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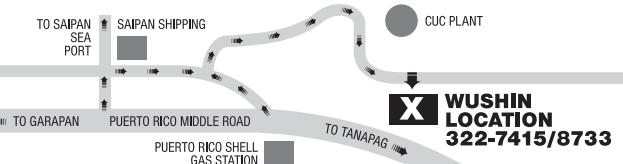
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DISMAY**From Page 1**

"Delta will end flight operations between Narita and Saipan and Palau effective May 6, 2018... due to unsustainable pressure, including low demand in the Micronesia market," he had said.

Delta's presence in Palau is fairly new compared to Saipan. The airline started flying to Palau only in December 2010, making the partnership run for almost eight years, while Delta's partnership with Saipan has been running for 29 years.

The last time an airline pulled out of the CNMI was when Japan Airlines let go of the route back in October 2005.

In an interview with a handful of individuals on the loss of

the Atlanta-based carrier from Commonwealth's skies, many were dismayed.

"This is a heavy issue but it's really sad. How are people going to travel if they are pulling out completely? Who is going to take us to Guam, Japan, and the other islands? It's not good and aside from the less travel carrier choices, many people will lose their business and jobs."

—Steve from Dandan

"It's a shame that they are pulling out because I've been using Delta since they have been here. It is very convenient to travel from Saipan using a direct flight to Japan and then to the States and now we have to find another route to do that. It's sad but what can we do if it's a business call?"

—Lorraine Babauta from San Vicente

"It is a big loss to Saipan and the people who patronize Delta. Delta is a big company and now we are losing them. It is our trusted airline whenever we travel to the mainland because of their quality service and convenience. Delta Air Lines is also the airline we trust whenever we fly a family member for check-up or medical needs to Hawaii because we also have family there."

—Amy Cabrera from Chalan Piao

"It is terrible! We are going to lose our Japanese market and tourists."

—Sam of Saipan

"It is sad that Delta Air Lines is leaving as it is our

trusted airline going to Japan and the States. We actually like going through Japan. Like this winter, my family and I stayed overnight in Japan as we really like to bring the kids there and we use our mileage. My father-in-law travels a lot so he is able to get the miles and we use the miles to get our teachers inbound and outbound here. I like Delta's service over other airlines and I really wish that they would stay."

—Emily Wei of Eucon International School, Gualo Rai

"I guess the tourism that we get from Japan will go down. We really cannot do anything about it when it is based on economic reasons. Our government must find a way for the Japanese to come over. Resi-

dents who have family ties in Japan will be affected because it will be harder for them. Traveling might be more expensive because there will be more stopovers than a direct flight."

—Renalyn from Chalan Kanoa

"I am Japanese and this

news makes me very sad. The distance between Japan and Saipan has become farther because there is no direct flight anymore. *Watashi wa yoi Kankei ga nakanaru koto o osorete iru* (I am fearful the our good ties will be gone)."

—Akira Matsuda from Garapan

looking at other areas on the island that may have the same water fraud problem.

CUC water/wastewater division acting chief engineer Larry Manacop, who did a PowerPoint presentation yesterday about CUC water and wastewater engineering and operations with water/wastewater division manager Gary Byra, agreed with Carter that pumping 17 wells will dramatically increase the water supply in certain areas that have no 24-hour water supply.

In an interview, CUC legal counsel Sirok said they are going to work with the OAG as they investigate the water fraud matter and see what happens after that.

Sirok said they know for sure about two farms that they are looking at, but there may be more.

"I don't know the exact number at the present time. That's what the investigation will find out," he said.

Sirok also stated that they had a good two weeks of discussion with Carter on stipulated order issues that include not only water but also power and oil.

"We had a great field trip with the judge last week. This is the first time that the judge had an opportunity to really look at our water side," said Sirok, adding that in the last several years Carter dealt only with stipulated order 2—the oil side, pipeline, construction of fuel tank, and so forth.

"This is a great time for us to present all of these to the judge," he said.

Sirok said that, in six months, the judge will see where CUC is on the plan is to reinvigorate the water system.

"Our goal is to try to get better water hours for everyone. There are certain areas that have only two hours of water service. That's not acceptable for any of us," Sirok said.

He said CUC's and EPA's effort is to hopefully put in place 24-hour water supply throughout the island.

On the funding issue, Sirok said CUC gets a certain amount of funding every year by applying from various sources, mostly from EPA for water.

He said they have a grant request with the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will help provide water in Dandan.

"We have grants that are ongoing right now and we are looking at the application for fiscal year 2018 grant from EPA and how we're going to use that money," he said.

SABLON**From Page 1**

that would have U.S. workers as the main workforce," Sablon told the committee. "Third country nationals would come in to fill the gaps, where there are really no U.S. workers."

Murkowski and Sablon both introduced the U.S. Workforce Act on Jan. 19 after months of work by a bipartisan group from the House and the Senate. The bill adds 10 years to the current labor transition period and makes 8,000 extra CW permits available for next year.

Murkowski, as chair of the

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, led the working group and quickly decided to hold a hearing on the bill.

"We wanted to be sure the economy would have workers. Our bill does that," Sablon said. "We wanted to be sure that more Americans would be getting jobs. Our bill does that, too."

Murkowski described their bill as "a good product."

"While I am willing to support extending the transition period, I remain committed to the intent of the transition, which is to increase the number of U.S. workers in the CNMI economy while reducing the dependence on foreign labor," she said.

Committee ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) thanked Sablon "for his leadership in working with us these past several months in a bipartisan way with the staff of the committee and the Judiciary Committee to identify the path forward for a 10-year transition from the CW program."

"This bill, in my view, effectively promotes continued economic growth for the Marianas, but also imposes additional safeguards to make sure that protections are in place for workers," Cantwell added.

Also attending the hearing were Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI), who entered the

"We ran out of money," he said.

That meant they could not pay the government, employees, suppliers, shareholders, and the lawyers the company used to hire.

Chan said they acquired HKE in 2013 and has invested over \$40 million to cure all legal and financial difficulties of the previous owner. That included paying back wages of employees and taxes owed the government.

In 2014, Chan said, the company's net loss was at \$10.8 million and the total deficit was at \$121.9 million.

In 2015, he said, the net loss was at \$11.2 million and the total deficit was at \$133 million.

Chan said the company tried hard to survive after paying the U.S. government \$3 million in July 2015 to settle a criminal case.

He said HKE filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in December 2015, but the federal court dismissed it in January 2016.

Since they could not pay their lawyer, Daniel T. Guidotti, the lawyer withdrew, Chan said.

"We cannot find another

one to represent us," he said.

"We want to state the fact that we have run out of money, but we are not abusing our staff," said Chan, adding that they expended a lot of effort in trying to get all their foreign workers back to their countries.

Chan said that Samuel Mok, the lawyer for the plaintiffs in this case, is taking advantage of the fact that they have no money to hire a lawyer.

Chan said it does not, however, make Mok right in the plaintiffs' claims in this case.

"I am willing to come forward to explain in person before the judge without an attorney," he said.

Kennedy, in her show-cause order, reiterated that failure to obtain a lawyer may result in a district court judge striking HKE's and Mega Stars' answer to the lawsuit and entering a default judgment against them.

At the Jan. 16 hearing, Guidotti withdrew as counsel for HKE and Mega Stars after the companies failed to pay his attorney's fees.

Kennedy informed HKE and Mega Stars that the corporations may appear in court

only through an attorney. She also explained that failure to obtain a lawyer may result in sanctions, including entry of a default judgment.

Mok is counsel for Eric F. Dona and six other co-plaintiffs. There are 15 named plaintiffs in this case.

In their lawsuit, Dona and co-plaintiffs alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied to them about their immigration legal status, that they were legally authorized to work despite the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

In June 2015, FinCen assessed HKE with a \$75 million civil penalty for "willful and egregious violations" of the Bank Secrecy Act. In February 2016, the district court authorized the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to dispose the \$2.5 million that HKE has agreed to pay as part of a \$3.03-million settlement of a criminal case.

In May 2017, the District Court ordered HKE to pay \$191,400 in civil penalty to the U.S. Labor secretary for willful and repeat violations of the overtime provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Carter

then pointed to a map of the area to show "how massive the water fraud is."

He noted that in 2015, a person was discovered to have an illegal water connection and a police officer was brought in and the illegal water supply was disconnected.

Carter said in September 2017, the water supply was cut off in that same area, but in January 2018 the person apparently re-hooked the water line again.

The judge said minimally it's three years of water fraud.

Carter said because of this person or persons, CUC would eventually pass on the increased water rate to regular customers.

CUC billing and financial accounts manager Bettina Terlaje also disclosed that CUC discovered yesterday morning two more farms that were believed to have illegal water connections.

Carter praised CUC for the discovery and thanked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Manibusan for appearing in court to address the water loss situation.

Carter said CUC is also

PSS awaits additional \$12 million

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Public School System eagerly awaits the Senate to adopt the \$12-million supplemental budget that the House Ways & Means Committee set aside last December to meet the needs of PSS.

Once the Senate does that, this would give PSS the \$12 million it needs to proceed with its plans for 2018, said Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada. That includes fixing PSS infrastructure, buying more books, and keeping up with the latest technology.

"Everybody have their iPads but we have to increase our bandwidth and accessibility to WiFi and those requires a lot of money," she said.

In an earlier interview, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said the House of Representatives has set aside \$15 million in the supplemental budget for PSS in compliance with the constitutional mandate that 25 percent of general fund must go to PSS.

"When they [BOE] submitted their listing, there was a total of \$15 million but they came forward stating that their immediate need and highest priority amounted to \$12 million. So we reached that understanding...because this is the first [business gross revenue tax] for fiscal year 2017," he said.

"We are expecting more collection and supplemental revenues throughout the fiscal year," he said. That would mean giving PSS the remaining \$3 million in the next round.

Ada said the budget is a serious concern for PSS. "Our mission is to prepare students to be college-bound, career-ready, and be contributing members of society. Since government officials and business leaders are in Washington, D.C. [talking] about the [need to develop the local] workforce, I think PSS is doing a great job in producing good high school students that will eventually join the workforce as they have the skills and resources that they can use and contribute to be employed," she said.

"The profile of our high school graduates are first, one wants to go to college; two, one wants to get a job here; and three, one wants to continue to be a nurse, enforcement officer, establishing a small business here at home. PSS' intent is whatever type of profile they want to be or pursue, they are contributing greatly to our community," Ada said.

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MVA wins two travel industry best partner awards



The Marianas Visitors Authority Korea office was awarded two awards in January 2018 by Jeju Air and Korea Travel Times in recognition of its strong partnership with the travel trade industry.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority Korea general manager Irene Lee accepts an appreciation plaque presented to the tourism office by Jeju Air president Lee Seokjoo at the airline's 13th anniversary celebration on Jan. 25, 2018, in Seoul, Korea.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's Korea office was presented with two awards in January 2018 in recognition of its strong partnership with the travel trade industry.

The MVA won the 2017 partnership award at the 8th Korea Travel Times True Partner Awards hosted by the country's No. 1 travel trade newspaper on Jan. 17, 2018.

Winning partners were selected by industry survey and supplementary verification processes. Korea Travel Times singled out 20 companies that it certified as adding value to cooperation and partnership in the tourism field. Along with two other destination marketing organizations, the MVA received the "mutual partnership" award for actively promoting marketing activities in cooperation with airlines, agents, and online and offline media.

"Since last year, the MVA's Korea office has expanded our programs to support trav-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority Korea general manager Irene Lee receives a Korea Travel Times True Partner Award awarded to the tourism office by the country's #1 travel trade newspaper on Jan. 18, 2018, in Seoul, Korea.

el agencies more effectively, and it's an honor to be recognized by Korea Travel Times for our work," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

"We have added new sales contests to bolster existing programs such as incentives for hosting golf and MICE groups and selling Marianas' tour products through TV home-shopping programs. We have also actively launched joint marketing promotions with new airlines and implemented various broadcast marketing strategies, and we are anticipating continued strong arrivals from Korea in the year ahead," he added.

With the increased number of flight seats to Saipan from Korea's second biggest city Busan and the surrounding Yeongnam area, the MVA also initiated sales promotion programs and seminars aimed at agents in the market. As a result, the number of Korean visitors to The Marianas was up over 330,000 in 2017, a dynamic growth of 47 percent compared to the previous year.

The MVA was also awarded an appreciation plaque during Jeju Air's 13th anniversary celebration held on Jan. 25, 2018. As the only Destination Marketing Organization awardee, the MVA was recognized for enhancing Jeju Air's brand image and flight sales to The Marianas through diverse co-marketing activities.

"Along with two sales incentive promotions, bus audio advertising, and giveaway promotions in Busan, the MVA delivered strong return on investment through the TV filming project it organized for 'Delicious Guys' in late 2017," said Concepcion. "This Comedy TV production achieved record-breaking audience numbers of 1,832,083 views and 4,325 post shares on YouTube, and it strongly contributed to publicizing The Marianas destination and enhancing Jeju Air's brand image."

MVA Korea general manager Irene Lee accepted the awards at both events, saying the MVA's Korea office would continue to make greater efforts to support the travel industry. (PR)

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A man accused of beating up his girlfriend and injuring her in a fit of jealousy last Dec. 27 pleaded guilty to charges on Tuesday afternoon and was slapped with a 36-day prison term.

Tarell Darnell Murphy, 33, pleaded guilty to assault and battery (domestic violence) as part of a plea deal. He was sentenced to six months in prison, all suspended except for 36 days.

Murphy was given credit for 36 days of time served. That means he is already out of jail.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo placed Murphy on one year of probation and required him to pay \$2,161 in restitution to the victim, \$120 in probation fee, a \$300 fine, and 25 in court costs.

He was also ordered to complete 50 hours of community service or pay the equivalent fine and complete counseling with the Community Guidance Center or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The remaining charge of disturbing the peace against Murphy was dropped.

According to assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid, Murphy strangled and choked his then-girlfriend at their house in central Garapan on Dec. 27, 2017.

When three police officers responded to the incident at 5:58am last Dec. 27, the victim was limping and had a swollen and bruised cheek and scratch marks on the neck.

She told police that she and Murphy got into an argument after she received picture messages from a co-worker on her cell phone.

She said Murphy sat on her back, placed her in a rear-naked chokehold, and pulled her head so far back that she thought her neck was going to snap.

She managed to run away and called her cousin for help.

The victim was taken to the hospital where she was treated for injuries that included a sprained ankle, scratch marks/bruising from the left shoulder to her collarbone, swelling and bruising on the right arm, and slight bruising on the shoulder.

She said Murphy has been physically abusive since they got together in February 2017.

In April 2017, the U.S. Marshals arrested Murphy based on an indictment filed in South Carolina for false statement.

The U.S. District of Caroline issued an arrest warrant against Murphy on July 30, 2015 for failure to appear in court last July 21, 2015.

Last April, the U.S. District Court for the NMI ordered the transfer of Murphy to the District of South Carolina. Murphy agreed to the voluntary removal.

It's not clear whether Murphy went to South Carolina then returned to Saipan. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

Man gets 36 days for beating girlfriend



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NMC offers courses to help build local workforce

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is offering eight new courses that are expected to boost the CNMI's efforts to wean itself from its dependence on foreign workers, according to NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

She announced the eight new course offerings during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership last Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Sandcastle.



According to Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who spoke at the monthly Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership meeting on Wednesday at Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle in Garapan, enrolling to any of the eight new relevant courses at NMC is the fastest way to be highly qualified in the job market.

BEA CABRERA

The new courses are basic law enforcement, business management, computer applications, fire science technology, hospitality operations, nursing assistant, small business management, and casino management.

"We now offer relevant courses that will give certificates of completion and accomplishing one course only takes 30 credits. Unlike Associate of Arts, which requires 60 credits and a Bachelor's Degree that requires 120 credits, the new courses will equip students the needed skills in a short amount of time," Fernandez said.

She said the certificate of completion is the fastest way to be highly qualified in the job market.

Fernandez said the casino management course will be very useful for people who want to work in the casino industry.

"When everything is open, they're going to need and employ at least 1,000 employees or more," she said.

Aside from being a main source of revenue, the operations of a casino is 24 hours, with the need for workers that will always man the tables, Fernandez added.

She assured that NMC has access to qualified instructors for the new courses and the class schedule is flexible to suit the need of students.

"The courses are open to walk-ins and for company in-house training where companies can send a group of their employees so we can teach them," she said.

"The courses require 30 credits, where three credits are equivalent to 45 hours but we can also conduct it in an accelerated pace. We can do one class after the other or we can do it in a shorter time frame because the normal schedule is 16 weeks and we can do six or eight weeks to fit in the company's schedule," she added.

Fernandez said the minimum number of students to start a class is 10, but it can go lower.

"It is nice to have 10 but if it's really urgent and pressing we can always start at a lower number—five to seven students. The courses are open to everybody but what we are trying to do is prepare local people to slowly take over the CW jobs," she said.

"Anyone who can pay can join [a class], whether citizen or not. If a company has a group of employees and future employees, they can come to the program and in this case, the company would be the one paying for the course on behalf of the employees," said Fernandez.

Community gears up for CNMI Women's Month



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Women's Association and its partners are gearing up for CNMI Women's Month.

Women's Month is quickly approaching and the CNMI Women's Association and its partners are gearing up for a monthlong series of activities.

The overall chair of this year's Women's Month celebration, Rose T. Ada-Hocog, president of CWA's board of directors, said the activities will include a proclamation signing, a day of prayer, the 2nd Annual March for H.E.R.S., a girls' camp, mini workshops on culture, dental clinics and outreach, a pajama-rama, and the annual two-

day women's summit, among other events and activities.

Various community organizations and agencies have volunteered to organize the activities, among them the Women's Affairs Office, Division of Public Health/Maternal & Child Health Bureau, Northern Marianas College, Carolinian Affairs Office, Division of Youth Affairs, Commonwealth Arts Council, Community Guidance Center, IPI/ Corporate Social Responsibility team, and Marianas Young

Professionals.

The CNMI Women's Month celebration is spearheaded by the CNMI Women's Association and the Office of the Special Assistant to the Governor for Women's Affairs. The CNMI has adopted "Press for Continued Progress" as its theme for 2018.

With the World Economic Forum's 2017 Global Gender Gap Report findings that gender parity is over 200 years away, there has never been a more important time to keep motivated and #Press-

forProgress. And with global activism for women's equality fuelled by movements

like #MeToo, #TimesUp and more, there is a strong global momentum striving for gender parity.

The CNMI Women's Association is partially funded by the Community Services

Block Grant, a sub-grant awarded by the Division of Youth Services through funding under the Office of Community Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (PR)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Operators sought for Kobler gym

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is requesting for proposals from any interested organization in operating the Koblerville Gymnasium located right across the Coral Ocean Point. If they may have any question or concerns, contact Jacob Muna, NMHC planner, at (670)234-6866/9447. (PR)

Free events for teens and kids next week

There will be a Teen Beach Party on Monday, Feb. 12, from 4:30pm to 6pm at the beach across Marianas High School. It will be open to all middle school and high school students.

A Children's Valentine Party for ages 4-11 will be held on Feb. 13 at Church 360 on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe, from 6pm to 7:30pm.

There will be another Children's Valentine Party for ages 4-11 on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Kagman Community Church in Kagman III, from 3pm to 4:30pm.

Finally, a Teen Party for middle school and high school students will be held at Kagman Community Church on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 4:30pm to 6pm.

All events will include games, snacks, and a Bible challenge.

These events are hosted by the Okinawa Christian School International Mission Team, which will be composed of six high school students and their leaders. They are also planning to work with CARE on a disaster relief project as well as with the Salvation Army's feeding projects.

Events are sponsored by Church 360 and Kagman Community Church. If you have any questions or need more information, email flybjrew@yahoo.com or call 256-8171. (PR)

Free health clinic on Sunday

The Lions Club International District 204, Region 2 will hold its Annual Health Fair on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018. Registration for the free health services will begin at 8am and end at 12pm at the Mt. Carmel Daidai Social Hall. Services will include blood pressure /hypertension check, glucose testing, vision check with the distribution of free reading glasses, along with cancer and health awareness information. This is a free service. For more information call 989-2545. (PR)

Kagman High updates

Kagman High School will be releasing its 3rd Quarter Progress Report on Monday, Feb. 12, 2018, from 4pm until 6pm in the school cafeteria. Kagman High School will also be passing out student's progress reports on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018, from 5pm until 7pm at the Natibu Sports Association in Tanapag. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend one of these two events. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Administrators sought for S&NISWCD

The Department Of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform farmers of the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, at 9am at the Division of Agriculture Kagman station. DLNR is looking for farmers to be administrators of the S&NISWCD. If you are interested or would like to get information on this matter, call Diane Gabaldon at 256-3319. (PR)



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for remains of the Japanese fallen during WWII

Today, the surviving families of the Japanese who died overseas during war are hopeful the remains of their loved ones will one day return home.

Approximately 70,000 Japanese servicemen and civilians lost their lives in the Northern Marianas Islands during World War II. According to the studies obtained by the Government of Japan, the remains of about 31,350 have yet to be repatriated.

Island	Died during War	Repatriated	Unfound
Saipan	55,300	29,160	26,140
Tinian	15,500	10,290	5,210

Caution: It is unlawful for any person to excavate, dig or look for the remains of a human body without a permit obtained by the CNMI Government.

If you have any suspicion of remains on your property, please contact the Japan Associate for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties (JARRWC). An association designated and guided by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to implement the recovery and repatriation of military personnel and civilian remains.

(JARRWC in Saipan)

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Email: jigyoub@jarrwc.jp

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First lady calls for creation of One-Stop Disability Center

First lady Diann Torres called for a meeting with representatives of local disability-related agencies to discuss ways in which the Lady Diann Torres Foundation could assist in improving services to individuals with disabilities as they transition from school to career or to higher education.

The meeting was facilitated by Floyd Masga, director for the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the Northern Marianas College, and included representatives of disability-related agencies including the Council on Developmental Disabilities, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Center for Living Independently, and V.O.I.C.E.S.—Saipan Chapter. A representative of the Grants Management Office under the Governor's Office also attended.

Torres was visibly emotional when recollecting working with former students with disabilities whom she taught in high school.

"I've always wondered what happened to certain kids in my classes after leaving high school, whether they were able to successfully get jobs, go to college, or support their families," she said. "I have this vi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First lady Diann Torres, seated second from left, recently convened a meeting with representatives of disability-related support agencies. Representatives from Northern Marianas College, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Council on Developmental Disabilities, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, CNMI Office of Grants Management, and Voices of the CNMI attended the meeting.

sion of a one-stop center where our kids with special needs can go once they leave school...a



kind of stepping stone or training ground to help them transition into the workplace."

"Of course," she adds, "I wanted to hear from this group first... any thoughts or ideas about what is needed, but beyond that how we might be able to collaborate to help this particular population."

This initial meeting was to garner support and suggestions from current disability partners and to align each organization's objectives toward the realization of this collaboration.

The group looks to explore further the feasibility of a one-stop disability center that would serve as a central location for the disability network to provide information and services to individuals with disabilities and service providers, with added input from representatives of the Special Education Program/Public School System, Northern Marianas Trade Institute, and Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority. They plan to reconvene in mid-February.

"This has been a dream of LDTF for a long time, and I am grateful for the overwhelming support of the CNMI Disability Network partners at today's meeting," said Torres. "We are all very excited to work toward this goal." (PR)

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Bracing for Islamic State's westward migration

Declarations that Islamic State is on the verge of defeat keep piling up. During his State of the Union address, President Donald Trump said he was proud to report that "the coalition to defeat ISIS has liberated almost 100 percent of the territory once held by these killers in Iraq and Syria." In Iraq, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told his country in December that "we can announce the end of the war against (Islamic State)."

Territorially, Islamic State has been squashed. But the threat it poses remains all too real—and ominous.

The New York Times reports that thousands of Islamic State foreign fighters have been slipping out of the eastern Syrian battlefield and hiding in Damascus and other parts of northwest Syria. Many with European roots are paying smugglers to get them over the Syrian border into Turkey, which they hope to use as a conduit to return to their homelands in Western Europe. Some have training in chemical weapons and are staying in Syria to join al-Qaida's branch in Syria.

Routed from its prized strongholds of Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in Iraq, Islamic State is now becoming what many militant groups morph into after their defeat on the battlefield—a guerrilla movement that emphasizes soft target attacks, using suicide bombings and ambushes to prey on places where civilians congregate.

Baghdad has been a prime target for those attacks. But few places in the world are immune. The wars in Syria and Iraq drew fighters from more than 120 countries. Thousands died in battle, but Western officials say it's likely that thousands more escaped to their home countries. EU officials think as many as 1,500 militants have returned to their homes in Europe. There were also Americans fighting in Iraq and Syria, though how many were directly affiliated with Islamic State isn't known.

Will some postwar militants give up the cause? Perhaps. But it would be foolish to think that many others wouldn't bide their time, and wait for the right moment to inflict terror. Whether carried out by sleeper cells or lone wolves inspired by Islamic State propaganda, we've seen what that carnage looks like in London and Manchester, Paris and Nice and, in the U.S., Orlando and New York.

Turkey is a front line for preventing postwar militants from heading westward. Right now, however, Turkish forces are attacking Syrian Kurdish fighters that the U.S. wants at the Syrian-Turkish border as a firewall to Islamic State migration. The Trump administration so far has failed to get Ankara to stand down. Failure's not an option, however. Islamic State militants slipping over the Syrian-Turkish border isn't just a Turkish problem—it's a threat to many Western nations.

For their part, European governments have improved cooperation between their intelligence and law enforcement agencies, following criticism in the wake of terror attacks in Paris and Brussels that such cooperation was lacking. Part of that cooperation involves European intelligence outfits feeding and checking new databases of suspected foreign fighters.

As more Islamic State militants seep out of Syria and Iraq and head westward, Europe, along with the U.S., will need to intensify that cooperation. There's nothing wrong with feeling good about regaining the territory Islamic State had seized across Syria and Iraq. But it's far too early to cast the militant group as defanged and defeated.

(c)2018 Chicago Tribune



Ice-skating coconuts having bad hair days

Next week we'll be up against Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. This has absolutely nothing to do with the Chinese book I just bought, but until somebody gives me a box of chocolates, or preferably, a red envelope stuffed with holiday cash, I'll just sulk and study my new book.

It may be solitary study but I'm not alone. The world is full of people digging into these kinds of books. Saipan's pipeline into the Chinese tourism industry is just one example of the dynamic.

Chinese New Year is, traditionally, an occasion to sweep out the old concerns and start things with a fresh outlook. So I'm going to take a fresh look at the written side of Chinese for those who are contemplating joining the fun.

One of the first things I encountered when bellying up to Chinese was that the written language and the spoken language are essentially separate things. Some teaching methods use an "integrated" approach; they combine the written side and the spoken side. Other methods, by contrast, don't combine them.

Books on the written side of the ledger range from dry-and-scholarly on one hand to creative-and-quirky on the other. As for the latter approach, the creativity comes in when devising ways to memorize the exotic characters that constitute the Chinese script. These ways can involve stories, mnemonic devices, or even cartoons. The basic idea is to either find, or invent, patterns that allow us to associate characters with ideas or with other characters.

If you've ever gazed at the sky and noted that one cloud looks like a fish, another one looks like Abraham Lincoln, and that the cloud over the beach looks like an ice-skating coconut having a bad hair day, and if you can then manage to make up a story that involves all three characters, then you might enjoy studying Chinese script.

Which brings us to the book I just bought. No, it doesn't have any coconuts in the clouds, but it is based on using creativity as a learning tool. *Chinese Characters: Learn & Remember 2,178 Characters and Their Meanings* (EZChinesey.com, 496 pp., \$24.95 but I paid more), by Alan Hoenig, Ph.D., was published in 2009. That's reasonably recent by book standards, but it's not easy to find these days. I paid a premium for it, \$35, from a used bookseller.

I surmise that it's a self-published effort, but the associated website doesn't seem to work and the phone number listed in the book isn't a live one, so I don't really know what's going on.

I bought the book so I could try to break some logjams in my

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.



vocabulary. That's because some characters, no matter how hard I try to memorize them, elude my grasp. So it's not a front-to-back read for me, but rather just one more tool in the box to try when the occasion arises.

The book often makes effective use of creativity and it is very well-indexed. It is focused on individual characters (in the simplified script, which is used in mainland China and Singapore) and their basic meanings. It does not offer lists of words that can be derived from the characters, but that's fine with me, since I didn't buy the book for that realm anyway.

I've found that the book I turn to the most when studying Chinese writing is *Reading and Writing Chinese*, third edition, by William McNaughton (Tuttle Publishing, 311 pp., \$18.95).

In some cases this book has helpful hints for memorization. In other cases it doesn't. It's at the scholarly end of the spectrum, but it's still user-friendly and never pedantic or stale. It has a lot of information.

A book that's more creative than the one I just mentioned, but which offers a smaller inventory of material, is *Learning Chinese Characters* by Alison Matthews and Laurence Matthews (Tuttle Publishing, 383 pp., \$29.95). This was my first book on Chinese writing and it was a great first step. It has a friendly and light-hearted tone that helped ease me into the language.

I don't play the game of speculating whether one book is better than some other book. I'm not limited to buying only one book. So if a book looks useful, I'll buy it.

For the sake of context, I'll submit that even meager progress in Chinese can gobble up 1,000 hours if you consider study time, class time, and commuting-to-class time. How much is your time worth? This is a notion worth considering when contemplating the comparative costs of books or other materials.

Well, such are my thoughts as we close one lunar year and face the start of another. I wish you good fortune, and may your horizons be plentiful with ice-skating coconuts.

Mounting economic uncertainty

Delta Air Lines' decision to pull out servicing the Saipan-Narita route in the near-term spells economic devastation for the NMI. It would instantly see a huge financial plunge in the tourism industry here. It translates into far less revenue down the stretch.

While the decision is tethered from a business standpoint, we've also had our share of adolescent decisions in recent past dealing with other airlines. PanAm came and left. Continental became Micronesia's designated airline. It also left when we refused granting it some land for hangars that, in turn, would have made Saipan the hub of its operations.

Japan Airlines left, too, including the sale of its Hotel Nikko. The exit of these Nippon investments translated into the exit of some \$5 billion to \$7 billion in money that was once recycled locally. Now Delta Air Lines has decided to fold its wings in the near future.

This is one time in our developmental history that the elected elite must converge in a single room to prepare and appeal to Delta Air Lines' headquarters in Atlanta. If we treat this with the usual indifference and apathy, then prepare to deal with persistent bankruptcy of the worse order up ahead.

CW issue: Meanwhile, the NMI is in Washington, D.C. for a last ditch effort to salvage the CW program. Understood the economic devastation if this provision of USPL 110-229 isn't extended. But it ran into pointed questions from troubling labor issues to plans to rectify ascertaining jobs for U.S. citizens.

Realistically, however, we're up against national Republicans determined to fix the national mess on immigration that

came from the reckless use of what's known as chain migration and visa lottery. The commission of heinous crimes by foreign felons against law-abiding citizens across the country has envenomed and cemented the determination for total exclusion of foreign workers. Trump is equally bullish to do the same with H-4 visa workers.

This brings to mind the outmigration of our very own nearly 10 years ago when they intuitively sensed the lack of economic opportunities at home. More than 4,000 to 5,000 of them evacuated from the islands. When windows of opportunities are shut, it means major familial decisions in terms of their future. The lack of opportunities here forced our very own leaving island.

Our people are looking for "home" endowed with good education and health systems and a decent community to raise their children. These seem missing today right here at home. Is there even faint hope that we would see more lasting investments that would lift all boats in the harbor? Or would current deteriorating conditions persist?

Be that as it may, it would be to our benefit to request that immigration control is restored in the interest of lasting economic sustainability. Persistent denial means our future is definitely headed into the sea of uncertainty where bankruptcy turns into daily game of hopelessness.

Bad chew: Trump's address highlights his grand success cutting income taxes, corporate taxes, and creating millions of jobs for most who needed meaningful employment, among others.

Behind the grandeur of returning government to the people, he also mandated rebuilding our country's basic infrastructure. His goal is to allow revival of local economies, the cost of rebuilding is an 80-20 split, with 80 percent for the states and 23 percent by the feds.

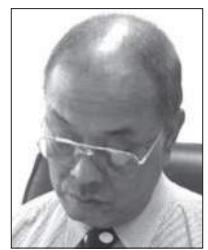
Bring it home and this is what it means: Say we need \$100 million to rebuild our power generation facility. It means we pay for \$80 million of it while Uncle Sam the \$20 million. Must have fiscally responsible people at the helm.

Earhart: Before her plane went down, Earhart was in intermittent contact with *Itasca*, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter. Her last radio transmission was that her plane was running out of fuel and running "north and south." Eventually, it went down about 100 miles from Howland Island.

The Coast Guard did search and rescue to no avail and so on July 19 the search was called off and the pair declared

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



lost at sea. Obviously, Earhart never made it to Saipan. There were 16 other female aviators around the same time. Who did the witnesses from here see? Was it Earhart's ghost? Or is this a telepathic phenomenon of sort otherwise known as gossip?

Do you still want a monument to honor someone who was never here in the first place? Did she do anything of significance for the indigenous people in absentia? Now, would you still spend \$200,000 in taxpayers' contributions for a ghostly monument?

Moreover, most families here muddle along the swamp of poverty income level and below, literally struggling to make ends meet. Hearing their voice and expressions is difficult having grown up in the abyss of poverty myself.

Have you seen our people who can't even afford the 20 percent deductible at CHC? Utility has been increased twice already, price of basic goods and gasoline have gone up consistently while there's an impending plan to raise hospital fees beyond 100 percent. These, while family income remained the same for over 20 years now?

Why would you expropriate taxpayers' hard-earned tax contribution on an irrelevant monument of a navigator whose airplane came down near Howland Island in 1937? What is the obsession in this project? Suspect spouts that it would spur economic activity? Would Asians pay to visit the NMI just to see an "out of thin air" claim that Earhart was here? Do they care who's Earhart?

How about learning to pay tribute to our own set of pioneers in the establishment of our first democratic government after the war, e.g., Gregorio Sablan (Kilili); Elias P. Sablan, Ignacio M. Benavente, William S. Reyes, Dr. Jose Torres, Jose Fitial, Antonio Rogolifoi, and Henry Hofsneider, among others? Where's the pride and dignity of the indigenous people?

Pindar prods Pepe Batbon

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Ode to a Lying Lymph Node

Thanks to prodding from Pindar (522 B.C.-c. 440 B.C.)

The doctor said of lying lymph nodes I have plenty hundreds inside me in fact they are all over the place most help me out with hiding tax reports and money and disguise inner feelings about immigrants and race.

Their filter function produces 'believe me' uncouth truth I have my lying aides call them all alternative facts let my insulting comments and tweets be read forsooth let my ever changing beleaguered staff do the redacts. Believe me I will continue my leering lymphatic lying over my next three, the best in history, presidential years my base, the nation and world can't say I'm not trying to use these lying lymph nodes located under my ears. To all readers concerning my lying lymphadenopathy believe me I want no criticism and need no empathy.

Drumpf-Filled Days of Puerile Praise

Here, Pindar prods me out of an existential malaise.

At all times I'm in need of praise from any and all that care to give let it pour like rain in a misty haze filtering through my egotistic sieve. lay on more praise as thick as gravy filtered through narcissistic lymphs rivers of praise in my cerebrum wavy lies about all my conquered nymphs. call me Money Man, Golf Man, Bigly Lord of the Links, Gold Guru in power my synapses get all jiggy and wiggly as I sing with joy in my golden shower. a brand new White House holiday carol praising my persona, pathetic and puerile.

US Workforce Act focuses on local workers

First of a four-part series

Editor's Note: This is the first of a four-part series by Delegate Sablan detailing the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, which he introduced in the House of Representatives on Jan. 19.

The purpose of economic development in the Marianas should be to make life better for all of us who live here.

To me that means making jobs available for our own people and being sure those jobs pay a decent wage that makes working worthwhile.

When we wrote the U.S. Workforce Act we spelled out three goals: increasing U.S. workers in the economy, making it more attractive for employers to hire U.S. workers, and protecting U.S. workers from being pushed aside by foreign workers. Here is how we do that:

Only if no local worker is able, willing, and qualified

The Act requires employers to get a foreign labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor before they even apply for a CW worker. That is new.

U.S. Labor has to certify that no U.S. worker is able, willing, and qualified for the job being offered. Labor also certifies that hiring the CW worker will not pull down the wages of U.S. workers in the same job.

This is the same certification required for other U.S. work visas. It adds another 30 days or so to the application process, and that is a burden on employers. But it is a major new protection for local workers, who feel overlooked by the CNMI's own [job vacancy announcement] process and by employers who always go for the minimum wage CW workers.

Time to get serious about training

Training for local workers is another important part of the Workforce Act. Last year, I increased the fee that employers pay into a training fund; and the Workforce Act requires the fee to keep going up, year after year.

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLÁN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is the CNMI's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives



That adds to the cost of hiring a CW worker and makes employers think twice. Adding to the training fund should also increase the number of local workers who have the qualifications employers are looking for.

To date, the CNMI has gotten over \$12 million in training money from local employers, but it is hard to say how many local workers have jobs as a result.

So, the Workforce Act requires the governor to submit a plan every year for how the money will be used and how many local workers will get jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor has to okay the yearly plan. And if local workers are not getting jobs, the plan will have to change before the CNMI gets any more money.

All that information will be available to the public, too. So, we can all see if we are making progress.

By the way, I would like to see these funds used to help pay for apprenticeships. My work on the House Education and Workforce Committee has taught me that on-the-job training is a proven method for getting people off the sidelines and into good-paying jobs.

Let me hear what you think

If you have any questions about how my U.S. Workforce Act helps local workers get jobs, please, let me know. My e-mail is kilili@mail.house.gov.

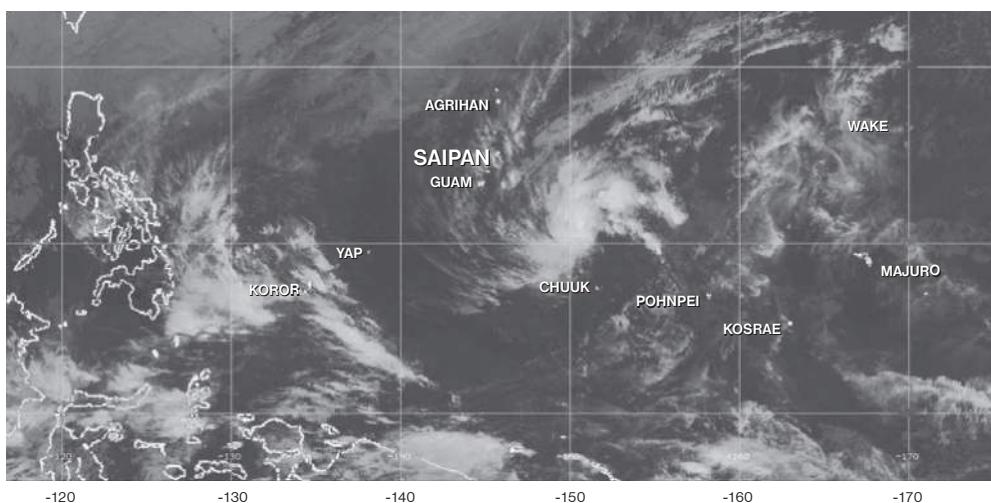
Next time, I will write about the protections for our local businesses contained in the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:30 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

After generally dry weather over the last 6 weeks, we are about to get our best chance of wet. A disturbance near 9N149E is moving westward. Guidance generally has the disturbance moving northwestward then southwestward until it gets west of the Marianas and then on a more westward track. There is still some uncertainty as to the exact track with the GFS bringing the low farthest north, (north of 10N) while the ECMWF keeps it generally south of 10N. The GFS has trended a bit further south with its track compared to 24 hours ago though. It still seems that a track south of 10N would be the best course based on the guidance and trends. With that said, there are potential differences in the forecast. With a more southern track, south of Guam, the best chances of any precip would be for Guam, with less chances as one goes north. Perhaps in later forecasts, the zones can be split to account for this.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Showers	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Showers	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F

Auckland	Rain	73° / 70°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	32° / 10°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Honolulu	Sunny	77° / 67°
London	Partly Cloudy	43° / 28°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 54°
Manila	Showers	86° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	90° / 61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 72°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	40° / 36°
Osaka	Rain	48° / 39°
Paris	Mixed	36° / 27°
Busan	Showers	46° / 25°
Rome	Sunny	57° / 37°
Salem	Rain	58° / 49°
San Francisco	Sunny	63° / 48°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	37° / 18°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	47° / 36°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

3:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.38
8:32 AM	LOW TIDE	1.10
2:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
9:57 PM	LOW TIDE	0.22

DAY SUNRISE SUNSET

Today	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:42 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:42 AM	6:19 PM

DAY MOONRISE MOONSET MOONRISE

Today	1:18 am	1:03 pm	-
Saturday	2:07 am	1:48 pm	-
Sunday	2:56 am	2:34 pm	-
Monday	3:45 am	3:21 pm	-
Tuesday	4:32 am	4:10 pm	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily							

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter recently met with officials from the Northern Marianas College School of Education and Nursing Program to discuss a partnership for respite care services.

Respite care is a service provided to children and adults with chronic or terminal illnesses, disabilities or those at risk of abuse and neglect. Respite care serves to provide temporary relief to unpaid primary caregivers for the purpose of stability, time-off and preservation of care.

"We see an opportunity to use the respite care program to benefit nursing school students and improve collaboration for training of respite care providers. There is a recently entered into memorandum of understanding with the Developmental Disabilities Council, placing the provision of respite care services under DCCA, as well as legislation to place the respite care program permanently under DCCA. To that end, we have been working on putting together all of the pieces. This has included coordinating training for staff, developing a program model, organizing training for respite care providers, setting up a respite care center, and working with partners who will promote and implement these services," Hunter said.

Move to strengthen respite care services gains steam

Office of Aging director Walter Manglona earlier noted that the Caregiver/Respite Care Program began through funding from the National Family Caregiver Service Program, which assisted family members caring for the elderly by providing short-term relief to all eligible caregivers.

"Caregivers are an essential part of our community, especially as it pertains to caring for our *man'amko*. Many caregivers, especially those within the family, have the best interests of their loved ones at heart. However, it is with respite care that we can ensure caregivers pay attention to their own physical and mental wellness, and get proper rest to continue to provide care," Manglona said.

Hunter added that with the proposal of House Bill 20-140, respite care services will be centralized and strengthened for the benefit of the entire Commonwealth.

"A respite care partnership will ensure that family members and other caregivers supporting older individuals are able to provide adequate services to individuals in need. Previously, the Office on Aging provided respite care to alleviate stress and prevent burn out, to each registered caregiver, but this legislation

further identifies local training resources and recruiting of respite care providers. We can further ensure quality services and development for not just the elderly, but children and individuals with developmental disabilities, and those who are homebound. With this legislation, we can look toward lengthening the lifespan of the respite care program and leverage existent resources under the department," Hunter said.

CNMI Respite Program coordinator Jack Sablan noted that the provision of respite

care services reduces abuse and neglect of individuals in permanent care and increases the mental and physical health and wellbeing of caregivers.

"With an understanding of some of the unique challenges in our community, we are not only developing a homebound care program, but we are already nearing completions on the renovation of a respite care facility, where clients can be dropped off for scheduled respite services. We will also be developing contingents of respite care providers on Tinian and Rota to ensure all of

our communities are served," Sablan said.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres emphasized that integrating and establishing respite care services within the department helps develop community resources and bridges the gap between the aging population, childcare, and youth services.

"Caretaking is ingrained in our culture and formally establishing the authority for respite care services fills an ongoing need in healthcare. We see that childcare services under the Childcare Development Fund have improved

through their pilot training and development outreach. I look forward to seeing that our community members who need the additional assistance have a central agency to go to. At the same time, we will create opportunities for our local college to explore caregiving and improve our awareness toward the needs of our elderly and our diverse community. This foresight is truly the gift of reciprocity, which ultimately benefits families, service providers, and our community in the long-run," Torres said. (PR)

Coast Guard, partners respond to report of grounded fishing vessel in American Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa

The U.S. Coast Guard, port partners, and local authorities are responding the grounding of the 88-foot commercial fishing vessel *Chui Zai Fa No. 1* about 300-yards off Leone Bay last Wednesday.

Coast Guard responders en route to American Samoa from Honolulu are expected to arrive Wednesday afternoon via an HC-130 Hercules airplane from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point.

Additional support from the Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team based in Novato, California, is scheduled to arrive to the island aboard a commercial

flight Friday.

The feasibility of pollution response and salvage plans are being discussed.

Personnel from the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in American Samoa, aboard a police vessel, assessed the *Chui Zai Fa No. 1* following an initial report of its grounding Monday.

The Taiwanese-flagged vessel reportedly caught fire on Nov. 4, 2017, in international waters, prompting the crew to abandon ship into a life raft and were rescued by the crew of a Korean-flagged vessel, transferred to a sister fishing vessel and eventually disembarked in Fiji.

The master of the *Chu Zai Fa No. 1* and one crewmember reportedly remain missing.

The *Chu Zai Fa No. 1* remained adrift until its grounding last Monday. The vessel has the capacity to carry 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel and there may be approximately 13,000 gallons aboard the vessel. Some of the fuel may have burned off in the fire.

The responsible party has been actively involved in addressing the matter, and has already provided significant financial resources to ensure all of the proper steps are taken in mitigating this issue.

A small craft advisory is

currently in effect for American Samoa. Weather in the area is expected to deteriorate in the coming days as a monsoon trough generates wet and windy conditions across the islands through the rest of the week. Winds up to 45 mph, seas up to 10 feet, combined with hazardous north swells will gradually subside Wednesday night through Thursday morning. Occasional showers and isolated thunderstorms will occur through the next several days. Efforts are being considered to anchor the vessel in place to prevent it from shifting or damaging the coral reefs in the area. (USCG)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-18-010

MAUI 1 & 4 SHAFT WELLS MECHANICAL LIFT REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to design a method to rehabilitate the Maui 1 & 4 mechanical lifts; to rehabilitate the existing mechanical lifts and develop a safety plan for all required work in the shaft and tunnels in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **February 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-010 Maui 1 & 4 Shaft Wells Mechanical Lift Rehabilitation Project, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer, Jake Parker via email address jake.parker@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RSQ-18-014

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water mains, sewer mains (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrade to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specification, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, electrical inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Island of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CUC. All work is subject to EPA & CUC review and pre-approval.

The RSQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFSQ package set. The RSQ package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective firms must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 18-014, Request for Statement of Qualifications" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2018**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

All responses to this RSQ should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business and Engineering license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

Business

Senate celebrates budget deal—but shutdown still possible

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate leaders brokered a long-sought budget agreement Wednesday that would shower the Pentagon and domestic programs with an extra \$300 billion over the next two years. But both Democratic liberals and GOP tea party forces swung against the plan, raising questions about its chances just a day before the latest government shutdown deadline.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-18-2009

For: Local Publication and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date: **February 23, 2018
3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **January 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 23, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 09, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION TO BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-18

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 09, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"PROCUREMENT & DELIVERY OF THREE (3) 2018 PICK-UP
TRUCKS: 2DR, AUTO TRANS, 4WD, STANDARD BED, A/C, POWER
WINDOWS/DOORS, COLOR-WHITE, OTHER FEATURES AS PER
FACTORY SPECIFICATIONS. LOCKABLE FITTED BED TOOL BOX
TO BE INCLUDED. 2 UNITS ARE FOR THE SAIPAN
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ONE (1) UNIT IS FOR TINIAN
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. BIDDERS ARE RESPONSIBLE
TO DELIVER THE VEHICLES TO THEIR DESTINATIONS."**

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE ORIGINAL BID AND 2 COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-18". BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE. BIDDERS SHALL GUARANTEE DELIVERY OF THE VEHICLES WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM AWARD OF THIS BID. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SEND VIA EMAIL TO atudela@cpa.gov.mp ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 6, 2018.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION \$40-50-1020, \$40-50-1015, & \$40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____

children. The deal does not address immigration.

Beyond the \$300 billion figure, the agreement adds almost \$90 billion in overdue disaster aid for hurricane-slashed Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Senate leaders hope to approve the measure Thursday and send it to the House for a confirming vote before the government begins to shut

down Thursday at midnight. But hurdles remain to avert the second shutdown in a month.

While Senate Democrats celebrated the moment of rare bipartisanship—Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called it a “genuine breakthrough”—progressives and activists blasted them for leaving immigrants in legislative limbo. Top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi of California, herself

a key architect of the budget plan, announced her opposition Wednesday morning and mounted a remarkable daylong speech on the House floor, trying to force GOP leaders in the House to promise a later vote on legislation to protect the younger immigrants.

“Let Congress work its will,” Pelosi said, before holding the floor for more than eight hours without a break.

“What are you afraid of?”

The White House backed the deal—despite President Donald Trump’s outburst a day earlier that he’d welcome a government shutdown if Democrats didn’t accept his immigration-limiting proposals.

Trump himself tweeted that the agreement “is so important for our great Military,” and he urged both Republicans and Democrats to support it.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-18

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M.

**"AMBASSADOR SERVICES FOR AUTOMATED PASSPORT CONTROLS"
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING JANUARY 19, 2018.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND THREE (3) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **CONFIDENTIAL "AMBASSADOR SERVICES FOR AUTOMATED PASSPORT CONTROLS (RFP-003-18)"**. PROPOSERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PROPOSAL. ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE CPA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARRIVAL TERMINAL BY FEBRUARY 9, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M..

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: JANUARY 19, 2018

**JONATHAN S.
AND JOHANNA D. KAPILEO**
P.O. BOX 502370
SAIPAN, MP 96950
670-287-1628
Prose

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of)
The Adoption of:)
CFC-AD-CIVIL
C N K) ACTION NO.
Minor Child) 18-0034
By:) NOTICE OF
Jonathan S. Kapileo) HEARING
Johanna D. Kapileo)
Petitioner(s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 26th day of February, 2018 at 1:30 PM in Courtroom 217A, before the Honorable Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio

Dated this 29th day of January, 2018.

/s/
By: Patrick V. Diaz,
Deputy Clerk of Court

**MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ. (CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevanagelista@gmail.com**

Attorney for Plaintiff Jeon Seon Nam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JEON SEON NAM,)
) Civil Action No.
Plaintiff,) 17-0290
-v-)
WOO, JE CHUN,) SUMMONS
Defendant.)

TO: WOO, JE CHUN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, which has already been filed against you, within twenty-one (21) days after the date of the 4th publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of Michael Norita Evangelista, LLC, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED 12/21/17
3rd Publication
/s/
Clerk of Court



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Koblerville Gymnasium Operation

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is soliciting for proposals from qualified and established organizations and agencies to operate the Koblerville gymnasium.

The proposal packets are available at the NMHC Central Office Saipan located in Garapan during regular business hours from Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays beginning February 9, 2018.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on February 23, 2018 at 10 a.m. at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, faxed to (670)234-9021, or email to jimuna@nmhc.gov.mp.

The proposal would be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience: 30%
2. Organization and Capacity: 30%
3. Financial Capacity: 20%
4. Response to RFP: 20%

Proposers must seal and mark their proposals "NMHC Koblerville Gymnasium". Proposers must submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of sealed proposal and submitted to the NMHC Corporate Director, Garapan, no later than 10:00 a.m. on March 12, 2018.

The NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals become the property of the Government.

For more information, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner at (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality**
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp



Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 13, 2018, 9:00AM** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of January 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

- A. Project: SAIPAN GARDEN RESORT – The American Sinopan LLC is proposing to construct and operate ten 6-story hotel buildings with a total of 1,184 rooms with two hotel dining buildings, a main lobby, three swimming pools, and administrative building as well as two 6-story apartments with 180 units, a club house and two 6-story staff housing buildings with 170 units and cafeteria and two restaurant buildings on 24.7 acres in Tanapag.
- CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2018-X-020
a) Final Discussions, Comments, and/or Questions
b) CRM Permit Application Status Determination,
Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Nation

Pelosi stages 8-hour speech to push for vote for ‘Dreamers’

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi staged a record-breaking, eight-hour speech Wednesday in hopes of pressuring Republicans to allow a vote on protecting “Dreamer” immigrants—and to demonstrate to increas-

ingly angry progressives and Democratic activists that she has done all she could.

Wearing four-inch heels and forgoing any breaks, Pelosi, 77, spent much of the rare talkathon reading personal letters from the young immigrants whose temporary protection

FBI: No evidence of attack in Border Patrol agent’s death

DALLAS (AP)—FBI officials said Wednesday that the investigation into the November death of a U.S. Border Patrol agent has yielded no evidence that there was a “scuffle, altercation or attack” more than two months after President Donald Trump and others used the suggestion of an attack to promote the building of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Investigators have conducted more than 650 interviews and involved 37 field offices in their probe, but have not found definitive evidence of an attack, the FBI said in a statement. The investigation will continue and the reward of up to \$50,000 for information that closes the case will remain.

To date none of the more

than 650 interviews completed, locations searched, or evidence collected and analyzed have produced evidence that would support the existence of a scuffle, altercation, or attack on November 18, 2017,” said the release from the El Paso office of Emmerson Buie, a special agent in charge.

Rogelio Martinez died from injuries he sustained while he and his partner were responding to reports of unknown activity the night of Nov. 18 near Van Horn, a Texas town near the Mexico border about 110 miles (175 kilometers) southeast of El Paso.

Martinez’s partner radioed for help before both agents were airlifted to the hospital, where 36-year-old Martinez died a few hours later. The partner who suffered from head injuries was released from the hospital after several days, but told investigators he could not remember the incident.

The FBI release Wednesday noted that a dispatcher, who was among the people interviewed by investigators, took the call from the surviving agent. According to the release, the dispatcher wrote in his log that, “(He) thinks they (both agents) ran into a culvert.”

An autopsy report from the El Paso County medical examiner’s office released Tuesday night shed little light on what caused the serious injuries that Martinez suffered. The report listed “blunt force trauma” as the cause of death, but said the manner of his death was undetermined.

from deportation is set to expire next month. The California Democrat quoted from the Bible and Pope Francis, as Democrats took turns sitting behind her in support. The Office of the House Historian said it was the longest continuous speech in the

chamber on record.

“You see, these people are being deported,” Pelosi said around hour six. “We can do something today to at least make whole the children.”

Her remarks seemed partly aimed at the liberal wing of Pelosi’s own party, who seethed as Senate Democrats cut a budget deal with Republicans that could quickly steal the momentum behind the effort to resolve the Dreamers’ plight.

The wide-ranging budget accord says nothing about re-



Pelosi

newing the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, called DACA, which temporarily shields Dreamers—hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the country as children and living here illegally—from deportation. President Donald Trump has moved to annul DACA.

Pelosi said she’d oppose the budget deal unless GOP leaders agreed to hold a House vote on helping the Dreamers. But top Democrats said they weren’t corralling rank-and-

file lawmakers to oppose the budget pact, leading some of the party’s immigration advocates to question the forcefulness of her opposition.

“I’m going to take everything she says at face value,” said Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill. “And then hopefully tomorrow she will validate that trust by stopping us from voting for it. If she doesn’t, then it was a nice speech.”

Another backdrop of her performance—simmering displeasure among the growing ranks of ambitious younger Democrats who say it’s time for the party’s 70-something leaders to step aside.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW-18-RFP-003

TOPOGRAPHIC AND AS-BUILT SURVEY OF VARIOUS PROJECT IN PRECINCT III, FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for Topographic and As-Built Survey of Various Project in Precinct III, for Roads and Drainage Improvement, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-305 of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **February 2, 2018** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office on **February 20, 2018**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **February 27, 2018**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 35%
3. Project Approach – 25%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposers must be sealed and marked “DPW-18-RFP-003”. For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:30 a.m. local time, **March 2, 2018**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:30 a.m. local time, **March 2, 2018**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 2, 2018** – AND must be received no later than **March 13, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion there from, shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determining a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

Peter P. Camacho
Acting, Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PORTS POLICE OFFICE RENOVATIONS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-16 DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the renovation of office space for the Ports Police department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “*Proposal for the Renovations of the Ports Police Office – Design/Build Services*”. One (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the Ports Police Chief, Juan Dela Cruz, at 237-6500, extension 108 or (670) 483-4535.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror’s proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Total cost for design and construction | 60% |
| 2. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff | 15% |
| 3. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects | 15% |
| 4. Project Approach | 10% |

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within NINETY (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The contract period for design and construction is stated in the scope of work. Liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: January 29, 2018

Asia

Pence pouring cold water on warming ties between 2 Koreas

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (AP)—U.S. Vice President Mike Pence is pouring cold water on the warming ties between North and South Korea just as the two still-warring countries are joining up to compete together in the Winter Olympics.

Making his way to Pyeongchang to lead the U.S. delegation to Friday's opening ceremonies, Pence has embarked on a set of symbolic visits designed to draw attention to the North's terrible human rights record and nuclear aggression. With determined rhetoric—and the promise of more "aggressive" economic sanctions against the North—Pence is looking to refocus American allies on the North Korean threat.

"We will not allow North Korea to hide behind the Olympic banner the reality that they enslave their people and threaten the wider region," Pence said Wednesday after meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo.

Pence arrives in Seoul on Thursday for meetings with President Moon Jae-in just as South Korea seizes on the games for a diplomatic opening with the North, including the first visit of North Korea's ruling family since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Aides say the vice president is advancing a counter message, using the games as an opportunity for the South and the broader international community to exert what President



AP

South Korean army's armored vehicles move during a military exercise in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018.

Donald Trump has termed "maximum pressure" against the North.

Before departing for Korea, Pence announced that the U.S. would unveil in coming days "the toughest and most aggressive round of economic sanctions on North Korea ever."

He also ratcheted up his rhetoric on the North's human rights abuses in a speech to U.S. service members at Yokota Air Base in Japan.

"As we speak, an estimated 100,000 North Korean citizens labor in modern-day gulags," Pence said Thursday before

departing Japan. "Those who dare raise their voices in dissent are imprisoned, tortured and even murdered, and their children and grandchildren are routinely punished for their family's sins against the state."

Pence toured joint U.S. and Japanese operations centers at the U.S. base that monitor and react to crises on the peninsula and the region at large. He told troops to "be vigilant," warning against falling for the North's diplomatic overtures.

"We are ready for every eventuality," he added.

Pence's strenuous efforts

to highlight the threat from the North and its treatment of its people present a dilemma for Moon. The South Korean leader has long advocated engagement with Pyongyang and sees the Olympics as an opportunity to quell tensions that have escalated over its nuclear program. He has limited room to maneuver as his guest from Washington strongly criticizes the North and emphasizes the need to crank up the pressure campaign.

U.S. officials declined to offer details on the expected new sanctions beyond Pence's

comments, citing concerns that any additional information could be used by those trying to skirt the new measures. They are expected to be implemented before the conclusion of the games.

North Korea already is facing unprecedented sanc-

tions after three U.N. Security Council restrictions in the past year that have slashed the pariah nation's export revenue and capped fuel imports. Unilaterally, the U.S. has also targeted North Korean shipping companies and Chinese trading networks. A potential escalation of sanctions could be the U.S. blacklisting Chinese banks accused of providing North Korea access to the international financial system and facilitating sanctions evasion.

Administration officials said they had long expected the North would seek to use the Olympics, taking place just 50 miles from the heavily-mined demilitarized zone, as an opportunity to put a softer face on the regime, and painted Pence's visit as a counter-balance to those efforts. At the same time, the vice president has deliberately left the door open to a possible encounter with North Korean officials expected to be in attendance.

Workers try to shore up tilted buildings after Taiwan quake

earthquake.

The quake also buckled roads and disrupted electricity and water supplies to thousands of households.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said nine Japanese were among the injured. Six mainland Chinese were also injured, the Chinese Communist Party-run People's Daily reported.

President Tsai Ing-wen reassured the public every effort would be made to rescue survivors. On her Facebook page, Tsai said she "ordered search and rescue workers not to give up on any opportunity to save people, while keeping their own safety in mind."

Taiwan has frequent earthquakes due to its position along the "Ring of Fire," the seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur. A quake two years ago collapsed an apartment complex in southern Taiwan, killing 115 people. Five people involved in the construction of the complex were found guilty of negligence and given prison sentences.

A magnitude-7.6 quake in central Taiwan killed more than 2,300 people in 1999.

PH wants foreign research ships out of its waters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered an end to all foreign scientific research missions in a vast expanse of waters off the country's northeast and called on the military to "chase out" unauthorized vessels, an official said Tuesday.

Duterte issued the order in a Cabinet meeting late Monday after doubts were raised over the country's sovereign rights in the offshore region called Benham Rise, which the government has renamed Philippine Rise, said Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Pinol.

"Let me be very clear about this: The Philippine Rise is ours and any insinuation that it is open to everybody should end with this declaration," Pinol quoted Duterte as telling Cabinet members.

Benham Rise is an off-shore frontier facing the Pacific Ocean that is approximately 24 million hectares (59 mil-

lion acres) in size and is in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, an area where nations have internationally recognized exclusive rights to exploit fish and fuel resources, and continental shelf further out in the ocean.

Philippine security officials raised concerns about intrusions when a Chinese ship was monitored crisscrossing the waters early last year, drawing public attention to the territory, which some believe could have undersea gas and oil deposits aside from its rich fishing grounds.

Benham Rise lies on the other side of the Philippine archipelago from where Manila, Beijing and four other governments have been locked for decades in territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Duterte's spokesman, Harry Roque Jr., told a news conference Tuesday that all foreign scientific groups, including from China, Japan, South Korea and the United States, have

concluded their research work in the waters and the president wants Filipinos to carry out research from now on.

About 30 existing research permits would be deemed revoked and foreign scientific research groups may reapply but should get additional permission from Duterte's national security adviser due to the security implications of their presence in the waters, Roque said.

While the Philippines could halt foreign scientific research, foreign ships could freely pass through the waters under an international maritime treaty but could not tap its resources or lay submarine cables, Roque said.

Critics have questioned why the Duterte administration allowed a group from China to undertake scientific research in the waters given Manila's long-simmering territorial conflict with Beijing in the South China Sea. China has also defied and refuses to comply with an international arbitration ruling that heavily favored the Philippines in the disputed South China Sea.

Rep. Gary Alejano, a former marine officer, has said the government's decision to give Chinese surveyors access to Benham Rise was "careless and absurd" and may have undermined the country's national security. He expressed doubts the Chinese would adequately share the information they gathered as required by the Philippine government.

Tensions between China and the Philippines over South China Sea territories have eased considerably since Duterte took office in mid-2016 and began reaching out to China. He has placed the dispute on the backburner while seeking Chinese trade and economic aid, sparking concerns from nationalists and left-wing group alarmed by China's continuing actions to reinforce its claims in the disputed waters.

The National Fire Agency reported Thursday the death toll rose to 9 people. More than 260 people were injured and 62 are unaccounted for.

At the Yunmen Tsuiti building, clothes and other personal items were visible on the balconies as the rescue work continued.

The shifting of the buildings was likely caused by soil liquefaction, when the ground loses its solidity under stress such as the shaking of an

World

US launches rare strike on Syrian govt-backed troops

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military launched airstrikes on Syrian government-backed troops Wednesday after as many as 500 attackers began what a U.S. military official said appeared to be a coordinated assault on Syrian opposition forces accompanied by U.S. advisers in Deir el-Zour Province.

UN experts: Al-Qaida greater threat than IS in some places

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Al-Qaida's global network remains "remarkably resilient" and poses a greater threat than the Islamic State extremist group in several regions, including Yemen and Somalia, U.N. experts say.

The panel of experts monitoring sanctions against both groups said in a report to the U.N. Security Council, obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, that al-Qaida affiliates also "remain a threat at least as serious" as IS in West Africa and South Asia.

In a separate report circulated Tuesday, U.N. experts said IS poses "a significant and evolving threat around the world" despite recent setbacks in Iraq, Syria and the southern Philippines that forced the militants to relinquish strongholds.

The new report said unidentified U.N. member states highlighted that some al-Qaida and IS members "have been willing and able to support each other in the preparation of attacks," which poses only on Syria, they said.

The official said the strikes were in self-defense after the pro-government forces began firing artillery and tank rounds at the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces. About 100 of the attackers were killed, the official said.

It was a rare U.S. strike against forces that support Syrian Presi-

dent Bashar Assad's regime.

The official said the pro-regime troops were in a large formation supported by artillery, tanks, multiple-launch rocket systems and mortars, and that 20 to 30 artillery and tank rounds landed within some 550 yards (500 meters) of the SDF headquarters.

Several U.S. officials said no Americans were injured or killed in the attack by the pro-regime forces, but one SDF

member was wounded. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss preliminary details of the attack.

In response to the attack, officials said the Syrian Democratic Forces supported by the coalition targeted the pro-government troops with a combination of airstrikes and artillery rounds. Any of the attacking vehicles and personnel who turned around and headed back west were not targeted,

the military official said.

The SDF, aided by coalition support, are battling Islamic State militants east of the Euphrates River. Syrian government forces are active on the other side of the river around the city of Deir el-Zour.

The military official said the coalition had been observing a slow buildup of pro-government forces over the past week, and alerted Russian officials of the SDF presence in

Khusham. Coalition officials were in regular communication with Russian counterparts before, during and after the attack, the official said, and Russian officials assured coalition officials they would not strike coalition forces in the vicinity.

Officials said it appeared that the pro-regime forces were trying to take back land that the SDF had liberated from IS fighters last September, including oil fields in Khusham.



The Marianas' Barkus Dog Parade

From Carolinian Affairs Office Parking Grounds to Garapan Fishing Base

Saturday, February 17 2018

\$5 minimum donation per entry

Bring your best dressed dogs (and humans!) and support the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program / Animal Shelter.

Pre-register at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/saipanbarkusdogparade>

and pay donation on day of Parade.

For more information, contact marianasbarkusdogparade@gmail.com

To celebrate the Year of Dog, first 25 registration gets a doggie bag!

This is a family event. All dogs must be leashed at all times.

DFS will match all donations.



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Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Michigan family with 13 sons expecting next child in April

ROCKFORD, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan couple with 13 sons is expecting a 14th child in April but waiting until birth to learn the sex. Jay and Kateri Schwandt say adding another child to their large family won't be too big of a logistic change or financial burden, WOOD-TV reported. Kateri Schwandt said she's used to large families, as one of 14 children herself. "If you have three, it's the same as having 10 at this point, if you ask me," Kateri Schwandt said. "It's just more chaos, more noise. It's nothing we're not used to at this point." Like with their last few children, the couple has decided against learning the baby's sex before the birth. "I would love to have a girl, but I just don't think it's in the cards," Jay Schwandt said. This will likely be their last child, he added. "It just feels like this is going to be it, and we're going to enjoy every second of it," Jay Schwandt said. But Kateri Schwandt said the couple also thought their 13th baby would be their last. The couple said it's hard to imagine their home without a baby in it.

Missouri woman finds neighbor's dog riding pony

BOLIVAR, Mo. (AP)—A dog riding a one-eyed pony into the night is a surely a spectacle that needs video proof. A Missouri woman made sure to get exactly that. The Springfield News-Leader reports that Callie Schenker pulled into her driveway Thursday to the sight of her neighbor's Corgi sitting on her horse, Cricket. She recorded a 15-second video of the pony trotting away into the darkness as the canine sits atop, looking at the camera. The 22-year-old posted the video on Facebook with the message, "I can't make this stuff up!!! So we pull back in our driveway tonight and this is what we see. This is not our dog! But apparently him and Cricket the one-eyed wonder pony are best friends." The video has received 5.3 million views as of Tuesday morning. Schenker says the Corgi's owners are Mennonites who avoid going online, so they likely don't know their dog is gaining internet fame.

No fire, just fury: Teen makes false 911 call for stuck cat

OOLTEWAH, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities say a teenager whose cat was stuck in a

tree is in bigger trouble after falsely reporting a fire to attract help. The 911 center's operations director in Hamilton County, Tennessee, Jeff Carney, tells WRBC-TV that multiple agencies responded to what they thought was a fire Monday at the home of 18-year-old Trevor Austin Lane. Lane's arrest report says his cat had been stuck in the tree overnight, and he figured the fire department's "big ladders" would be of use. He was charged with a 911 violation and jailed on \$1,500 bond.

Paper Tiger: UK police end up in standoff with stuffed toy

LONDON (AP)—Crouching tiger, hidden ... toy. Police in Scotland were called by a farmer who thought a big cat had invaded his cow shed. They ended up in a 45-minute standoff with a large stuffed tiger. Police thought they had the tiger by the tail when they were deployed to a farm in Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, sending in a number of units, including an armed response team. The authorities eventually realized it was a toy. Peterhead Inspector George Cordiner says "until you know exactly what you are dealing with, every option has to be considered." Police describe the incident as a "false call made with genuine good intent," though they did allow that officers had a "roaring shift on Saturday night."

Woman says store bought lettuce had a 3-inch lizard in it

KITTERY, Maine (AP)—A Maine woman who prepared a salad says she realized after a couple of bites that her fork was stuck in a 3-inch lizard, minus the tail. After vomiting and getting over her shock, Michelle Carr, a nurse from Kittery, said she feared she could have ingested harmful bacteria. A biologist friend believes she found a blue-bellied lizard from California. Carr said she bought a bag of store-brand romaine lettuce at a supermarket in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on Jan. 26. The lettuce was distributed by a California company. A supermarket spokeswoman said it notified the supplier. Carr also called the state Health Department. A spokesman said because the lettuce was packaged and shipped from another state, any investigation would be conducted by the Food and Drug Administration.

Mexico: Someone tried

to mail a tiger cub

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican inspectors have found tigers in all sorts of situations: on leashes, in neighbors' yards and wandering the streets. But the office for environmental protection announced a new twist Wednesday: Someone tried to express-mail a tiger cub. The cub was sedated and packed into a plastic container. Nobody realized it was there until a sniffer dog looking for contraband detected it. The cub was mailed in the western state of Jalisco to an address in the central state of Queretaro. It was dehydrated but otherwise well, and was handed over to an animal management center.

The tiger's papers were apparently in order, but it was seized because the mailing constituted mistreatment. ACTON, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts couple says it was fun when they started receiving free mystery packages from Amazon they hadn't ordered. Now they want it to stop. Mike and Kelly Gallivan, of Acton, tell The Boston Globe the first package arrived in October. They have continued to receive one or two a week with mostly cheap stuff like plastic fans and phone chargers. The Gallivans say Amazon told them the merchandise was paid with a gift card with no sender's name. Two experts say the Gallivans are likely being used to manipulate Amazon buyer reviews. The anonymous sender is likely writing glowing reviews of their own product.

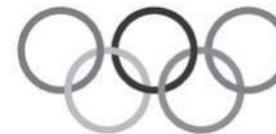
Charges dropped against woman who scared carriage horses

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Prosecutors in South Carolina have dropped charges against a woman who had been accused of dressing up as a dinosaur and scaring two carriage horses in Charleston. Local media reported that Charleston city prosecutors on Wednesday dropped charges of disorderly conduct and wearing a mask on a public street against Nicole Wells of Charleston. Wells had been arrested after someone wearing a Tyrannosaurus rex outfit stepped in front of a carriage hauling 16 sightseers last May and growled. The carriage operator fell out of the carriage when the horses backed up and the wheels broke the man's right foot. None of the passengers were hurt.

Science & Technology

OLYMPIC VIDEO AND VR

Guide to watching without a TV



NEW YORK (AP)—Every Olympic event will be streamed live. But to watch online, you'll still need to be a paying cable or satellite subscriber.

As with past Olympics, NBC is requiring proof of a subscription. If you've already given up on traditional cable or satellite TV, you can sign up for an online TV service such as PlayStation Vue or YouTube TV. Otherwise, your video will cut out after a half-hour grace period.

The subscription requirement also applies to coverage on virtual-reality headsets.

More than 1,800 hours of online coverage begins Wednesday evening in the U.S. with preliminary curling matches. Friday's opening ceremony will be shown live online starting at 6 a.m. ET, and on NBC's prime-time broadcast on a delayed basis at 8 p.m. NBC also plans live streaming of the closing ceremony on Feb. 25.

Here's a guide to watching the Olympics online.

TRADITIONAL COVERAGE

NBC's over-the-air network will cover popular sports such as figure skating and skiing, some of it live. For those who can't get to a TV, NBC will stream the broadcast at NBCOlympics.com and the NBC Sports app. But there you'll need your paid-TV credentials to sign in—even though you can watch the network over the air for free.

The sports network NBCSN will be the main overflow channel, carrying events such as biathlon, bobsled and luge. Coverage on CNBC and USA Network will be limited to curling and ice hockey. The Olympic Channel will have medal ceremonies, news and highlights, but not event coverage. All four of these cable channels will also be streamed online.

Much of the online coverage will come from the International Olympic Committee's Olympic Broadcasting Services. That means the spotlight will be on all athletes, not just Americans. In addition to live events, you can get streams of training and practice runs. NBC also plans digital-only shows, including a daily two-hour wrap-up starting at noon ET (2 a.m. the next morning in Pyeongchang).

Some cable companies

script—will also let you use the NBC apps for streaming and VR.

Google's YouTube TV has the lowest price for all five Olympic TV channels, at \$35 a month. Google says the service is available in more than 80 U.S. markets, covering more than 80 percent of households, though the NBC station isn't available everywhere.

In excluded markets, you could check out a rival. What works best will depend on your needs:

■ DirecTV Now also has a \$35-a-month offering. But the Olympic Channel is part of a higher tier, at \$60 a month, and DirecTV Now generally won't let you record programs for viewing later (a DVR feature is still being tested among some subscribers).

■ Hulu with Live TV is \$40 a month for all five channels and DVR. As with Comcast, Hulu is blending TV and online video on its app.

■ PlayStation Vue, Sling TV and FuboTV are all \$45 for comparable packages. But you can bring Sling TV's bill down to \$30 for just the two main Olympic channels and DVR. PlayStation is \$40 without the Olympic Channel.

Free trials are available, and you can cancel after the Olympics. Most services let you enter your ZIP code to check whether the NBC station is available. NBC's live broadcast stream won't be available on the NBC app if you don't get the local station.

BEYOND VIDEO

The NBC Sports app and the NBCOlympics website offer highlights, interviews and features on athletes without needing a subscription. You'll also have full access to scores, schedules and guides to understanding obscure events.

Samsung, an Olympic sponsor, developed the official Apple and Android app for the games, called PyeongChang 2018. It has schedules, news and 3-D and drone views of the venues.

The games' official website, pyeongchang2018.com, also has live video of the Olympic torch relay.

Traditional media organizations will also cover the event, even though extensive video from the official venues are restricted to the rights-holding broadcasters.

Life & Style

'Black Panther' takes blockbusters to Africa, and the future

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—For Ryan Coogler, the essence of "Black Panther" came down to one question: What does it mean to be African?

The Oakland-born filmmaker of both "Creed" and "Fruitvale Station" had been given the gargantuan task of shepherding Marvel's iconic superhero to the big screen, with a budget five times bigger than he'd ever had, Hollywood's most powerful studio behind him and the freedom to make "Black Panther" as personal as he wanted. Coogler had made his name creating films about the black experience, but both were about the black American experience. "Black Panther," which opens nationwide next week, was an African story and when Coogler signed on for the movie, he'd never been.

Now, he'd finally get his chance.

"This is the most personal film I've ever made, which is the strangest statement to say because I only make films that are personal," Coogler said. "This film for me started with this question of, 'What does it mean to be African?' It's a question that I've always had since I learned I was black, since my parents sat me down and told me what that was. I didn't totally understand what that meant. As kid you're like, well wait, why? Like, so wait we're from Africa? What's that?"

"I'm 31-years-old and I realized I never really took time to grapple with what it means to be African. This film gave me the chance to do that," he said.

When the wheels touched down in Cape Town, South Africa, Coogler remembers being overcome with a visceral feeling that he still can't



This image released by Disney shows a scene from Marvel Studios' "Black Panther."

AP

put words to. He went to Table Mountain and thought, "I could be buried here." In Nairobi he saw a Maasai man, wearing traditional clothes and speaking on a cell phone. "That's Wakanda," he thought. "That's Afrofuturism."

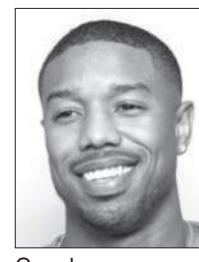
And that's what he set out to translate into the language of cinema in "Black Panther." It's the 18th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe and based on 50-year-old Stan Lee and Jack Kirby-created material, sure, but this is far from being just another superhero movie.

Wakanda, a fictional African nation, is an insulated, un-colonized and technologically advanced country that's both deeply traditional and dazzlingly modern. "Black Panther" paints a multifaceted portrait of a nation in flux, as T'Challa/Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman) ascends to the throne following his father's death.

Actress Danai Gurira ("The Walking Dead"), who plays Okoye, the general of the Wakanda warriors known as the Dora Milaje, grew up

mostly in Zimbabwe. She said she was "giddy" with "childlike joy" when she understood how Coogler intended to show Africa and its inhabitants like Okoye, the spy Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o) and the scientist Shuri (Letitia Wright)—and those are just the women.

"Black Panther" creates a precedent that kills the ability of folks to misrepresent and distort the continent," Gurira said. "The things that it checks off: Complex African female characters; African language on a big screen; African characters who are varied in many different ways and heroic; The heroism of Africans for themselves and not needing a white hero—go figure—to reach their goals; Celebrating so many specific African culturalisms. No one can really now try to put forth some product where Africa is seen begging for a white superhero to come and save it."



Coogler

"Black Panther" has the makings of an all-out a cultural event.

"It's the biggest, blackest movie that's ever been made," said veteran journalist and

television writer Marc Bernardin.

And it's already signaling a seismic shift that that could make an impact big enough to change the entertainment industry—not that it hasn't taken decades to get the African King and warrior to the big screen.

Wesley Snipes tried for years to get a "Black Panther" film off the ground, bumping up against antiquated thinking about how "black movies don't travel" (code for a film's potential to make money internationally). Even in the modern Kevin Feig-led superhero era, where seemingly every comic book character is fair game for a film, T'Challa was pretty far down on Marvel's list ("Ant-Man" and two "Guardians of the Galaxy" films came

first). But Marvel had a plan, and introduced T'Challa in a small but impactful part in "Captain America: Civil War" to set up the stand-alone film.

Coogler brought along many of his most trusted collaborators like actor Michael B. Jordan to play the villain Erik Killmonger, cinematographer Rachel Morrison and production designer Hannah Beachler. He even got his hometown in the film.

"Get Out" star Daniel Kaluuya, who plays T'Challa's best friend, says he's still processing what he saw in "Black Panther."

"To even have 90 percent of the cast speaking in an African accent? To me, it's like, what is that? No one has ever seen something like that before. You think, 'Oh I've been deprived,'" Kaluuya said.

"I think it's going to mess with people. I think people are going to stand straighter. I think people are going to be emboldened. It's like, wow we can do this. We can do this at this level and bring it home."

Walt Disney Co. chair Bob Iger told shareholders Tuesday that ticket presales are outpacing every other superhero movie ever made. Box office analysts have projected that it could earn upward of \$150 million in its first four days in theaters over President's Day weekend (and could beat "Deadpool's" \$152 million record). In sum, it's already looking at around \$400 million in ticket sales domestically. And it's currently resting at a cozy 100 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes.

Jordan, who has been by Coogler's side since "Fruitvale Station," said that a storm is brewing with this movie.

"Other studios are going to want to make movies like this and understand what the representation of this thing means," said Jordan. "It was important for the biggest studio in the world to get behind that. Now it's safe for everybody else to kind of do the same thing."

Some are a little more skeptical that this will happen.

"The optimist in me would like to believe that this is going to be the dam strike that unleashes a wave of Afrofuturism and this torrential onslaught of awesome," Bernardin said. "The realist in me who has been working in and around Hollywood for 25 years knows that it is far more likely, sadly, that Hollywood will interpret this as a unicorn."

Of course only time will tell if "Black Panther" is a turning point or an anomaly. For now, Coogler just hopes people like it.

"My experiences when I was there on that trip eased a lot of questions that I had, a lot of pain that I had. And I tried to put all that into the movie," Coogler said. "I don't want to let the audience down."

LA Times buyer is a basketball-loving biotech billionaire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The man buying the Los Angeles Times is a 65-year-old physician-entrepreneur described by Forbes Magazine as "America's richest doctor," and one who has said his goal is to cure cancer in his lifetime.

Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong also is a basketball fanatic who shoots hoops on a hardwood court inside his multimillion-dollar mansion and who owns a minority interest in the Los Angeles Lakers that he bought from none other than Magic Johnson, the team's legendary president of basketball operations.

Soon-Shiong also owns a 26 percent stake in the Times' parent company, Tronc, which makes him one of its largest shareholders.

It was his fight against cancer that put the doctor on the road to amassing the \$500 million needed to purchase the Times and its sister paper, the San Diego Union-Tribune. Forbes estimates his worth at \$7.8 billion.

In 1991, he created the cancer-fighting drug Abraxane and, rather than seek venture-capital money to promote it, borrowed cash and bought the company American Pharma-

ceutical Partners to market it.

After the FDA approved Abraxane in 2005, he sold American Pharmaceutical Partners and another of his businesses, Abraxis Bioscience Inc., for \$9.1 billion. These days, he controls a network of health-company startups called Nantworks as he continues his search for a cancer cure.

"I am driven to solve cancer in my lifetime," he told the Times last year. "Despite the naysayers, skeptics, and doubters, we are

making incredible progress."

His interest in his hometown paper surfaced publicly about 18 months ago when he bought 13 percent stake in Tronc for \$70.5 million as the newspaper's parent was fending off a takeover bid from rival media company Gannett Inc.

He soon increased that ownership stake to 26 percent and began feuding publicly with Tronc Chairman Michael Ferro over the newspaper's direction.

In an interview with the Times last year, Soon-Shiong declined to say whether he planned to buy the paper but he made clear his unhappiness with Tronc's management.

"I am concerned there are other agendas, independent of the newspaper's needs or the fiduciary obligations to the viability of the organization," he said. "My goal is to try and preserve the integrity and the viability of the newspaper."

Born in South Africa to parents who fled China during World War II, Soon-Shiong has said he learned the value of a free press growing up in a country that during his youth still practiced apartheid, or

racial separation, that denied rights to non-whites.

"In South Africa being Chinese meant I wasn't white and I wasn't black," he told Los Angeles Magazine in 2013.

He added that he trained at a black hospital and later worked in black townships where medical facilities were insufficient and he wasn't sure if the drugs he administered to children with tuberculosis were really doing any good.

"That's when I had the vision of what I wanted to do: leave South Africa and identify the technologies that would allow me to treat these kids as if they were at the Mayo Clinic," he said.



Soon-Shiong

Drake visits Miami homeless shelter for women, kids



In this Nov. 20, 2016, file photo, Drake accepts the award for favorite artist - rap/hip-hop at the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. AP

MIAMI (AP) — Drake made a surprise stop at a Florida homeless shelter for women and children, bringing a \$50,000 check and toys and games for the kids.

A news release from Miami's Lotus Village said Drake visited on Tuesday to support families who moved into the

nonprofit's new shelter one week ago. Drake passed out \$150 Target gift cards for the female residents.

The singer was in town shooting a music video. He made a pit stop at a local high school on Monday, performing for students and leaving them a \$25,000 check for

school uniforms.

The homeless shelter is trying to raise \$25 million to expand its reach and become a national model for curbing homelessness among women and children. Its services include a community clinic, children's wellness center, yoga and a Zen garden.

Queen Latifah, Anita Hill to speak at Rutgers ceremonies

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Queen Latifah and Anita Hill will give the commencement speeches at two Rutgers University campuses this year.

But the speaker for the school's main campus in New Brunswick has not yet been selected.

School officials announced Wednesday that Latifah, a New-

ark native who became an actress, hip-hop icon and social activist, will speak May 14 during the Rutgers-Newark ceremony. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Hill is the law professor who brought the concept of sexual harassment to national consciousness in 1991 when she testified during the Supreme

Court confirmation hearings of Clarence Thomas. She will speak May 17 to graduates at Rutgers-Camden and will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

School officials say both women were selected, in part, because they are strong female role models. Neither one will receive a fee for speaking.

Publisher moves up release of James Comey memoir to April 17

NEW YORK (AP) — Noting that the FBI is "under intense scrutiny," James Comey's publisher is moving up the release date of his memoir "A Higher Loyalty."

Flatiron Books told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it is moving up publication from May 1 to April

17. Flatiron President Bob Miller and Publisher Amy Einhorn say that there was demand for the former FBI director to be heard amid an "urgent conversation" about the bureau. President Donald Trump and his supporters have repeatedly criticized the investigation into his cam-

paign's alleged ties with Russian officials.

Comey was fired by Trump last May. The president initially cited Comey's handling of the probe into Democratic rival Hillary Clinton's emails. He later told NBC's Lester Holt that he was thinking of "this Russia thing."

With baby announcement, Kylie Jenner is new Instagram queen

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kylie Jenner is the new queen of Instagram.

The reality star's baby-name announcement became the most popular post on the social media site Wednesday, surpassing Beyoncé's pregnancy announcement of 2017.

Jenner shared a photo Tues-

day of her new daughter's tiny hand captioned with the baby's name, Stormi Webster. The post had collected 13.7 million "likes" by Wednesday afternoon, compared with 11.2 million for Beyoncé's pregnancy photo.

Born on February 1, Stormi is the first child for Jenner and her boyfriend, rapper Travis Scott.

The 20-year-old Jenner is the youngest sibling in the Kardashian-Jenner clan. She kept largely out of public view during her pregnancy. In a social media post earlier this week, she said pregnancy was "the most beautiful, empowering and life changing experience" and that she will "miss it."

A library without books? Universities purging dusty volumes

INDIANA, Pa. (AP) — A library without books? Not quite, but as students abandon the stacks in favor of online reference material, university libraries are unloading millions of unread volumes in a nationwide purge that has some print-loving scholars deeply unsettled.

Libraries are putting books in storage, contracting with resellers or simply recycling them. An increasing number of books exist in the cloud, and libraries are banding together to ensure print copies are retained by someone, somewhere. Still, that doesn't always sit well with academics who practically live in the library and argue that large, readily available print collections are vital to research.

"It's not entirely comfortable for anyone," said Rick Lugg, executive director of

OCLC Sustainable Collection Services, which helps libraries analyze their holdings. "But absent endless resources to handle this stuff, it's a situation that has to be faced."

At Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the library shelves overflow with books that get little attention. A dusty monograph on "Economic Development in Victorian Scotland." International Television Almanacs from 1978, 1985 and 1986. A book whose title, "Personal Finance," sounds relevant until you see the publication date: 1961.

With nearly half of IUP's collection going uncirculated for 20 years or more, university administrators decided a major housecleaning was in order. Using software from Lugg's group, they came up with an

initial list of 170,000 books to be considered for removal.

Faculty members who make their living in the stacks voiced outrage.

"Unbelievably wrongheaded" and a "knife through the heart," Charles Cashdollar, an emeritus history professor, wrote to the president and provost. "For humanists, throwing out these books is as devastating as locking the laboratory or studio or clinic doors would be for others."

Though "weeding" has always taken place at libraries, experts say the pace is picking up. Finances are one factor. Between staffing, utility costs and other expenses, it costs an estimated \$4 to keep a book on the shelf for a year, according to one 2009 study. Space is another; libraries are simply running out of room.

Mother and grandmother clash over girl's living arrangement

DEAR ABBY: How old does a child have to be before she is able to choose a relative to live with? I'm the one my granddaughter wants to stay with. Her home life is in turmoil because of her parents' nasty divorce.

Ever since her mother (my daughter) found out my granddaughter wants to live with me, she has forbidden her to talk to me, and me to contact her. Her mother is depressed and angry, but won't seek counseling. She doesn't talk to me unless it's to say ugly things.

My granddaughter said her mother never smiles anymore. We are very close and this hurts my heart. She's a good girl and should be able to be happy.

We live several hours away, and are more than willing to have her. She already has a room here, and our home is never happier than when she's visiting.

We haven't spoken to her in months, and we really miss her. Her younger sibling gets most of the positive attention, while she receives mostly negative attention. I have seen this happen many times. She tries so hard to please her mom. I don't know what to do to help her.

HEARTBROKEN IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: It would have been helpful if you had mentioned why your daughter is angry with you and is preventing your grandchild from contacting you and

vice versa. If she's in such bad shape that it is negatively affecting your granddaughter, your questions should be addressed to a lawyer.

If your granddaughter is in her teens, she might be considered mature enough to ask to live with a relative other than her mother. If not, and her mother's hostility is affecting her schoolwork, a trusted teacher or counselor at school might be able to see she gets the emotional support she needs.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is very outgoing. He loves chatting on the phone for hours, and talks with all the neighbors up and down the street. He's retired, so it's fine—up to a point.

We have a set time for dinner, which is 6:30, and he knows it. Invariably he'll be on the phone or up the street when it's close to dinner. I always remind him 10 to 15 minutes ahead, which gives him time to be here to eat, but he'll keep chatting until he's anywhere from 15 minutes to half an hour late to dinner.

I put time and effort into preparing my meals. I grow my own vegetables and think of creative things to fix. He always comments how great the meals are, so it's not that he doesn't like my food. If it's not eaten promptly, it's overcooked/mushy/wilted, etc., so I go ahead and eat if he's not here. I'd like him to be with me when I sit down at the table.

I feel it's incredibly rude for him to be late. When I tell him

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



that, he laughs like it's a big joke. Short of treating him like a 2-year-old and throwing his food away if he doesn't show up on time, I'm not sure what to do. Can you help?

FED UP IN NAPA, CALIF.

DEAR FED UP: I can't force your husband to the dinner table and neither can you. To toss his dinner into the garbage would be too overtly hostile and a waste of food. Try this: Tell him dinner time is 6:30, but prepare the food as if it's for 6:45 or 7.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

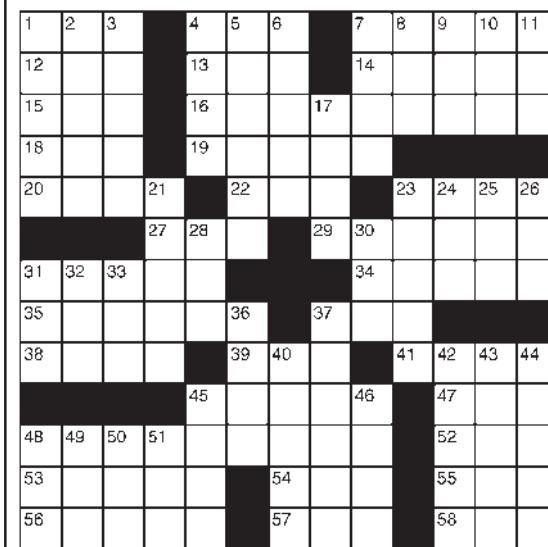
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	39	Mound	2	Gabriel,	25	Old Olds-
1 Guy's date	41	Beige	3	Starbucks	26	mobile
4 Mag. staff	45	Angry	4	offering	Map lines (Abbr.)	line
7 Cham-pagne	47	Prune	4	Canyon	28	Ballpark
glass	48	Grammy-winning	5	Nodding	30	fig.
12 Actress	49	singer	6	Spiritual	31	Sound of
Merkel	Amy	Amy	7	selves	Flavor	delight
13 — Magnon	52	TV spots	8	Worry	enhancer,	for short
14 Less common	53	Kicking	9	Legisla-tion	32	Latin 101
15 Sales rep.	54	partner	10	Grey, e.g.	33	word
16 You may order it by the glass	55	Earl	11	Mentalist	Charged	bit
18 Dog doc	Once	Grey, e.g.	12	Geller	36	Protag-onist
19 Baby hooter	called	13	10	Sawbuck	37	Fez
20 Actor Baldwin	56	Hinder	11	Before	feature	feature
22 Away from NNW	57	Shade tree	12	Beholds	40	Way to go
23 Partially mine	Under-	21	Daphnis'	23	Ham	42
27 "Psst!"	stood	love	love	— (deli order)	— (deli order)	Trolley
29 Shake-speare verse	1	22	23	article	43	sound
31 Sends off	Tropical fruit	24	Ham	44	Surprise	Wild West
34 Sandwich cookies	1	French	— (deli order)	win	45	show
35 Suave	fruit	article	24	"Moon-struck"	"Moon-struck"	Gemini
37 Your			46	actress	46	feature?
38 Vanished			47	Line of	48	fashion?
			48	fashion?	49	-de-
			49	Bankroll	50	France
			50	Petty	51	Petty
				peeve		peeve
				51	Prior	51
						night

Solution time: 25 mins.

 Yesterday's answer 2-9

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyson Houseman, 28; Mia Farrow, 73; Joe Pesci, 75; Carole King, 76.

Happy Birthday: Look for a new opportunity and you will find one. This year is about reaching out and making things happen. Don't wait for someone to come to you. If you want something, ask for it. Your energy level will be elevated and your passion to achieve your dreams will motivate you to get moving. Your numbers are 5, 14, 20, 28, 31, 42, 47.

TAURUS (March 21-April 19): Step up and take action. What you do to incorporate your skills into a joint venture or cause you believe in will also bring you greater recognition and a host of new opportunities. Protect against theft. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The time, patience and money you donate to something you feel is important will bring you satisfaction, but it may not please someone you are in a partnership with. Be sure to get the approval required to avoid trouble. ★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A partnership will help you advance. Discuss emotional, financial and physical concerns before you enter into an agreement that may be too much of a challenge for you or someone else. Honesty will help to propagate success. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't invest in someone else's venture. Use your creativity and common sense to determine where best to put your money, time and energy. Attending a retreat or taking a trip will be

informative. The unfamiliar will stimulate your senses. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Talk over problems you face with a friend or partner. Be smart when it comes to investments and how you spend your money. Put more energy into your relationship with someone who can make a difference to your future. ★★★★★

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SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your time and effort into fixing up your surroundings. If you are happy with your home environment, it will make your life easier. Think matters through and be sure to get approval before you bring about change. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): High energy and a passion to keep busy and look for a new adventure will prompt you to sign up for an event, activity or excursion that will challenge you mentally, physically and emotionally. Prepare to do your best. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Plan a vacation or attend a social event. Doing things with friends, family or your partner will spark your imagination and give you some good ideas to pursue that will allow you to use your skills more diversely. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your time and effort into fixing up your surroundings. If you are happy with your home environment, it will make your life easier. Think matters through and be sure to get approval before you bring about change. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): High energy and a passion to keep busy and look for a new adventure will prompt you to sign up for an event, activity or excursion that will challenge you mentally, physically and emotionally. Prepare to do your best. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put more physical and emotional effort into helping others. Your skills and experience will be put to good use and give you a platform to display and master what you do best. Stick to what you know. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Trust in your instincts, not what others say or do. Follow your vision and iron out any challenges you face one at a time. A steady pace and a simple plan will help you excel. Share your victory with someone you love. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotions, taking action and making poor assumptions will not bode well if you get into a discussion. Take your time and listen to what others have to say before you make a decision that could lead to isolation. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, proactive and excitable. You are playful and passionate.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7			1		9			
			5					
9	4	6	5		3			
			7		3			
4	9		2		6			
	2							
1		3	8	4	7			
			8	2				
					9			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	6	1	7	3	2	5	8
2	7	1	4	8	5	6	3	9
3	8	5	2	9	6	1	7	4
7	5	2	3	1	8	4	9	6
4	9	8	6	5	7	3	2	1
6	1	3	9	4	2	5	8	7
5	6	9	7	2	1	8	4	3
1	2	7	8	3	4	9	6	5
8	3	4	5	6	9	7	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/99

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SOUTH KOREA OLYMPICS START TODAY

S	E	I	R	T	N	U	O	C	B	R	O	N	Z

<tbl_r cells="15" ix="

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Skull and crossbones

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	COMBO (PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Sam Sons Inc.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Operation Manager

4-5 yrs experience.

Salary: \$7.05 - \$7.25/hr.

All interested applicants may send resume to ming@pacificalsupply.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

B & L CORPORATION

dba BL MACHINE SHOP

Needs 4 Machinist

Knowledgeable in Fabrication and Modifying parts metal & non metal

At least have 3 years Experience in Machining Job

Contact Number : 235-2567



EMPLOYMENT

(1) General Maintenance-\$7.55/hr. with 4-years experience. Email Green Corp. at greencorp670@gmail.com.



EMPLOYMENT

(1) Maintenance Repaire-\$7.05/hr. with 4-years exp. Email JJ Brother Corp. at jjbrothercorp@gmail.com.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ELECTRICIAN	\$7.55/hr 4-years experience
(1) CARPENTER	\$7.55/hr 4-years experience
(1) COMPUTER PROGRAMMER	\$7.55/hr 4-years experience
(1) GENERAL MANAGER	Salary depends on qualification

HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.

Send resume to hongeei@pticom.com

MECHILLE CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) ACCOUNTANT

(1) INTERIOR DESIGNER/SALES (4) INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR WORKERS AND ALL

Interested applicants may send their resume to mechillecorporation@gmail.com or pick up application form at our Office at Kannat Tabla Dr. Monsignor Rd. across Café Mango Six. Deadline for submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2018

Gemkell Saipan Corp. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Boutique Supervisor (2)

High School Diploma or a GED with one (1) to two (2) years of related or applicable work and management experience in luxury retail environment. Must be able and willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Must be familiar with the POS System.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com.

To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted **not later than 5:00PM on February 19, 2018**.

Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office, Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug test will be required prior to employment.

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BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT

Must be college graduate with degree in Accounting or Business Administration and has minimum of 5 to 7 years experience in communication business. Computer literate, expertise in Microsoft office applications and accounting softwares. Knowledge in preparation of financial reports, tax, budget, forecast, billings. Proficient in verbal and written communication.

SALES MANAGER

Must be college graduate has minimum of 5 years experience in communication business. Must have the knowledge in managing daily business operation, handling the administrative, sales and treasury. Proficient in verbal and written communication skills. Computer literate and expertise in Microsoft office applications

(4) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN

Must have at least 5 years work experience in communication business. Knowledge and expertise in programming and repair of iDEN communication handsets. Must have experience in working on telecommunications field equipment and structures. Computer literate and must have good communication skills.

Interested applicants can send resume to Choice Radio, Inc. P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950.

CLICK IT
OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

Please call 235-NEWS

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWS
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

2017 CW-1 CAP AT 12,991

LOOKING TO HIRE**Electricians
and Helpers**

Bring resume to Marianas Business Plaza (3rd floor – 309) For more information, contact Alan at 285-5499 or 234-4800

**L&F, INC.
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT****Accountant \$7.50**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- Knowledge in Peach Tree software
- 5 years of experience required

(2) Maintenance Repairer \$7.05

- 2 years of experience in Rod/Reel and Gun repairs

Building Repairer Maintenance \$7.05

- 5 years work-related experience required

Administrative Assistant \$7.05

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration
- With experience in bookkeeping
- 3 years of experience required

Applicants must be able to work flexible hours and must have a valid CNMI driver's license

Please email resume to info@fishingtacklesaipan.com no later than February 25, 2018

**R3A General Services, LLC
Job Vacancy Announcement****(1) Electrical Supervisor - \$8.00/hr.****(6) Maintenance Repairer - \$7.25/hr.****(5) Mason - \$7.25/hr.****(4) General Maintenance - \$7.25/hr.****(1) Accountant - \$7.25 to \$8.00/hr.**

For more information, please call our office at Kannat Tabla Drive, Saipan MP 96950. Tel: 670-234-1495 or Cell: 788-1495 or email us at: arielvillanueva@gmail.com

**REQ Day & Night Child Care
Job Vacancy Announcement****(7) Day Care Workers**

- CCDF or DCCA Certification Required
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Must be reliable
- Medical Background is a plus
- Three years' experience in Child Care

(4) Teachers

- BSE/ED Graduate
- Three years' experience in head start, pre-school and afterschool teaching
- Must be computer literate
- Must have tutorial experience
- Certification in tutorial is a plus.

Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

If interested, please email resume to reqchildcare@yahoo.com



Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Rd., Dandan P.O. Box 501585, Saipan, MP 96950 (670) 234-7645

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
ASSISTANT ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN**

DUTIES: Assist in performing field and laboratory testing, and soil investigations; prepare draft reports based on project observations and inspections; input field and laboratory data; communicate with clients, project managers, and others regarding projects; and other duties as assigned by supervisor.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED, at least 1 year of relevant experience and/or training, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications (plus overtime)

Applications are available at www.marianasgeotech.com and at the MGS office in Dandan, and must be submitted by **February 19, 2018**, to Chelsea Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office.

**KING'S INC. DBA KING'S JEWELRY
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT****• (1) GOLDSMITH/PRECIOUS METAL WORKER**

MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE TO FABRICATE, DESIGN, REPAIR, SIZING, SETTING AND MOUNTING GEM STONE, INCLUDING DIAMOND AND METAL CARVING, HAWAIIAN STYLE.

• (1) JEWELRY CASTING TECHNICIAN

TO MAKE MODELS OR MOLD TO CREATE JEWELRY, FABRICATE, REPAIR, SETTING, MOUNTING GEMSTONE, ETC.

Salary: \$7.05 - \$9.00 per Hour – Full Time
Experience: Min. of 5 years in Gold Smith

Interested applicants may send their resume to King's Inc. P.O. Box 5050 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or pick up application form from our office at Paseo de Marianas next to Paris Croissant Bakery. Deadline for a submission is no later than 5:00pm on February 23, 2018.

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HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) Chief Accountant | (1) Maintenance Technician |
| (1) Production Manager | (1) Refrigeration & |
| (6) Accountant | Aircon Technician |
| (18) Baker | (1) Production Clerk |
| (3) Cake Decorator | (1) Production Supervisor |
| (1) Catering Coordinator | (2) Sales Representative |
| (7) Cook | (3) Food Service Worker |
| (1) Cook Assistant | (1) Executive Secretary |
| (2) Packer | (1) Warehouseman |

Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office at Tun Herman Pan Road (Airport Road).

**PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF WAYVICS, INC.**

Notice is hereby given that WAYVICS, INC. is hereby dissolving the corporation effective Jan. 31, 2018.

All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to present them in writing and mail to:

WAYVICS, INC.
P.O. Box 500756
Saipan, MP 96950

This announcement will serve as a notice to all parties concerned of the legal dissolution of the said corporation.



On behalf of the Office of the Governor, a public information meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 04:30 p.m. at the Governor's Conference Room at the Honorable Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the proposed USDA Community Facilities Grant application.

The grant will be used for the retrofitting and improvement of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting and comment on the proposed project.

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
TWO (2) REGISTERED NURSES****DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Will work for a family general practice clinic. Screens patients by reviewing patient charts; Performs triage duties by getting the patient's vitals and document that information in the patient's chart, prior to the patient seeing a provider; Performs as an interpreter for patients to assist providers, as needed; Performs simple laboratory procedures as requested by a Provider; Assists Providers with procedures. Cleans and sterilizes instruments for procedures; Prepares and completes all specimen worksheets for procedures; Completes the necessary paper work for each patient, such as lab forms, referral forms and other patient forms; Assists with the scheduling of appointments for patients; Files proper documents in patient's chart; Pulls out and files patient charts; Assists with the inventory of medical and pharmaceutical supplies, if needed; Prepares exam and triage rooms to ensure that they are all clean, fully stocked with supplies and ready for the next patient; Performs other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate's Degree in Nursing;
- At least one (1) year experience in nursing/health care setting; &
- Must be a U.S. Licensed Registered Nurse.

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Polly Dlg. Masga, HR Manager
Marianas Medical Center
P.O. Box 5006 CCHR
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-3926
E-mail: polly.masga@mmcisaipan.com

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- Beauty Advisor, La Prairie, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721090)
- Sales Associate, Tiffany, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721091)
- Sales Associate, Fashion, Full-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721095)
- General Beauty Sales Associate, Part-time/Non-Exempt (Ref#DFS721092)

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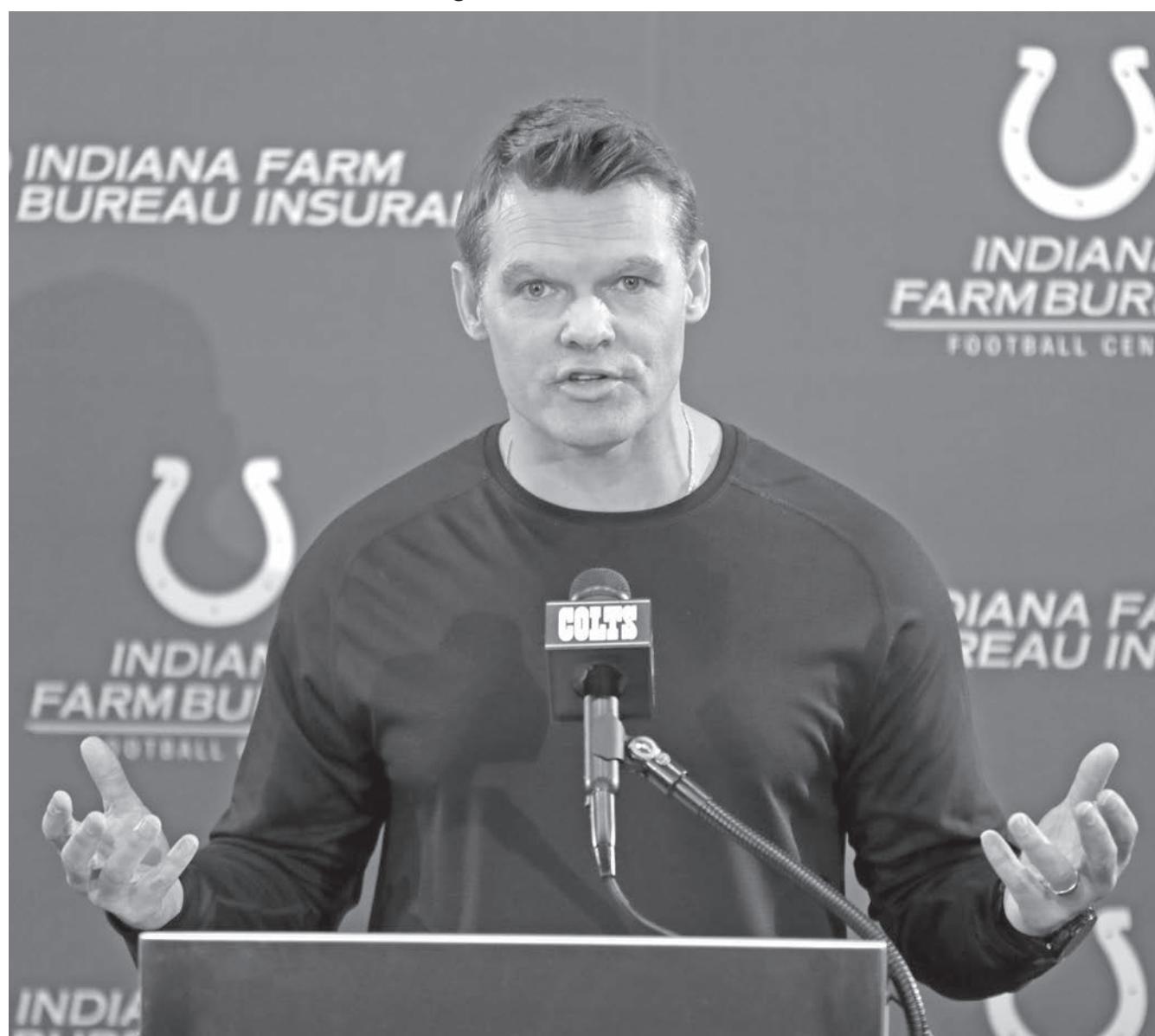
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Colts: Rivalry on after McDaniels backs out of deal



AP Indianapolis Colts general manager Chris Ballard answers questions during a press conference at the NFL team's practice facility in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018.

On Wednesday, though, he attempted to alleviate lingering concerns about Luck while acknowledging the franchise quarterback still hasn't thrown a football since returning from Europe late last year.

"At this point, we feel very strongly that Andrew is in a good place. He doesn't need surgery," Ballard said. "I have

"not gotten that from the two doctors that he's seen here after the season. His strength is good. He's working on his throwing motion and he's working on his arm speed right now. He has not picked up a football, but he is throwing balls, working on arm speed."

"He's going to do everything right to get himself ready to play and I'm very confident, he's very confident, that he's going to come back and prove a lot of people wrong," Ballard added.

McDaniels' decision didn't just leave the Colts in the lurch.

McDaniels stay gives Patriots possible Belichick successor

BOSTON (AP)—Josh McDaniels sent ripples throughout the NFL with his decision to pull out of an agreement to become the Indianapolis Colts' head coach.

He has yet to speak publicly about what factored into the 11th hour about-face. But McDaniels' return as New England's offensive coordinator keeps a possible successor for Patriots coach Bill Belichick in house.

Belichick gave no indication after the Super Bowl loss to Philadelphia on Sunday night that he plans to exit in 2018. And just last month he said that it was "absolutely" his intention to be back for his 19th season with the Patriots.

But at age 65 he's also the second-oldest coach in the NFL, behind only Seattle's Pete Carroll at 66.

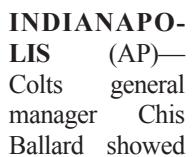
McDaniels has been one of the hottest names in coaching searches every offseason over the past three years.

At 41, he's considered one of the NFL's brightest young minds. What's more, McDaniels is someone whom Patriots quarterback Tom Brady trusts and recently called "a great coach and a great friend."

The only break in his Patriots' timeline came from 2009 to 2011, when he served as the Denver Broncos coach for two seasons, followed by a stop in St. Louis as the Rams offensive coordinator in 2011. He returned to New England in 2012.

During Super Bowl week, McDaniels spoke about the support he has in New England. He said it was the biggest takeaway from his failed experience in Denver.

"It's about the people that are with you more than it is about one person," McDaniels said. "There's no doubt about that. It takes an army of good people pulling the same direction to try to have success and I think the most important thing a head coach can do."



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Colts general manager Chris Ballard showed

up for a news conference Wednesday—just not the one he expected.

Instead of introducing Josh McDaniels as the team's new head coach, Ballard stood in front of reporters trying to explain why New England's longtime offensive coordinator reneged on a deal he initially accepted.

But if Ballard's disgust about losing his top choice wasn't clear from the occasional glare or the strong pitch in his voice, he left no doubt with one parting shot.

"The rivalry is back on," he said before leaving.

Conducting a coaching

search in February isn't what Ballard or Indy envisioned when Chuck Pagano was fired just hours after Indy completed a 4-12 season on Dec. 31.

Exactly 24 hours after announcing McDaniels' hiring on the team's Twitter account and roughly 16 hours after he called back to tell Ballard he was out, the search begins anew for the jilted Colts.

Their other finalist, Mike Vrabel, has already taken the Tennessee job. Another top-tier candidate, Mike Nagy, has already been hired in Chicago. Baylor coach Matt Rhule, who also interviewed for the job, is back on campus getting ready for spring football. And it's unclear where the Colts may turn next.

"We have a list of candidates, I've had them from the

get-go," Ballard said. "There are other guys we wanted to interview, but because of the playoffs, we weren't able to."

"We'll move forward with them and we will get the right leader for the Indianapolis Colts—one that believes what we believe and wants to go where we want to go. I'm very confident in this."

Ballard didn't name names, of course, nor did he provide a timetable.

Oddly, the timing could present Indy with a unique opportunity to pick off a candidate who might emerge as a top candidate on next year's coaching carousel.

Several possibilities exist including Philadelphia Eagles offensive coordinator Frank Reich, who was part of a Super Bowl victory over the Patriots

with a backup quarterback.

The good news for Indy is that the only coaching vacancy still looks pretty attractive—if Andrew Luck is healthy.

Indy still has Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton, Pro Bowl tight end Jack Doyle, a revamped defense that showed major improvement as last season went along, the No. 3 pick in the draft and about \$80 million to spend in free agency.

Luck, meanwhile, continues to be the big question as he rehabs from last January's surgery for a partially torn labrum in his throwing shoulder.

Some believe McDaniels' sudden change of heart was related to doubts about Luck's health.

Ballard didn't bother asking McDaniels why he made the decision.

Ronaldo: I have years left at the top

SPAIN (AP)—Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo is confident he can keep going "for years to come" at the elite level of football.

The Portugal captain, who turned 33 on Monday, has shown signs of a decline in his form this season for the first time in his glittering career.

The forward has only scored eight goals in 17 LaLiga matches in 2017-18, four of which have come in Madrid's last two matches, although he has nine in six games in the

Champions League.

But Ronaldo has dismissed any concerns about his ability to maintain his extraordinary standards in the future.

"On a personal level, this is a fantastic time for me," he told GQ magazine. "I have a growing family and I am very happy with my life."

"On a professional level, I have had two very good years in which I have won titles with my club and with my national team. I feel that I can keep go-

ing at the highest level for years to come."

Ronaldo does admit he has had to make changes in his lifestyle in order to maintain his fitness in recent years.

"Life is a challenge from all perspectives and I try to be at my peak, physically, because this is very important in my profession," he said. "I have to be at 100 per cent and I take this very seriously. To maintain this level, you need to make sacrifices. There are

certain things that I could do when I was 20 that I can't do today. You have to try and find a balance. It's the finer details that make a difference."

"I am ambitious, very ambitious. People should chase their dreams. I chased mine and I want to keep doing so, to improve and achieve even more goals. I believe I've had some memorable performances throughout my career but can't recall any in particular. I try to focus myself more on the present than on the past," he added.



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LeBron's jumper at OT buzzer hands Cavs win



CLEVELAND

(AP)—LeBron James hit a jumper over Jimmy Butler at the buzzer in overtime, giving the Cleveland Cavaliers a 140-138 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Moments after James blocked Butler's potential game-winning shot with 1.3 seconds left, he caught a long pass from Jeff Green, created some space from Butler near the foul line and sank his fade-away shot to end Cleveland's eight-game losing streak on national television.

The crowd erupted and James was mobbed by his teammates as the Cavs got a much-needed win to ease tensions during a prolonged slump. Cleveland has won just seven of its last 20.

James finished with 37 points, 15 assists and 10 rebounds in 48 minutes. He also passed Zydrunas Ilgauskas (5,904) on Cleveland's all-time rebounds list.

Butler scored 35, and Karl-Anthony Towns 30 for the Timberwolves, who were in position to win in OT before James came to Cleveland's rescue.

Butler drove the left side and had a step on rookie Cedi Osman before getting off a short shot. However, James, who had missed a 3-pointer that would have won it in regulation, came from the weak side to reject it and set up the dramatic finish.

The Cavs had lost their eight previous network broadcast appearances this season, prompting James to say last week following a lopsided loss to Houston that he and his teammates should be dropped from any more telecasts.

Finally, they were primed for prime time.

J.R. Smith added 20 points and Isaiah Thomas had 13 points and seven assists in one of his best games in weeks.

Towns made all six of his 3-point attempts and Minnesota drained a season-high 19 3-pointers.

With the NBA trade deadline set for 3 p.m. Thursday, the Cavs are looking for a deal to salvage a season quickly slipping away. The team has been hesitant to part with the first-round pick it acquired during the summer in the Kyrie Irving trade, but Cleveland may have no choice in order to add a quality player capable of pushing the team back into title contention.

Cavs coach Tyronn Lue was back on the sideline after leaving Tuesday's loss in Orlando in the first half with an unspecified illness. Lue said

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, left, drives against Minnesota Timberwolves' Karl-Anthony Towns in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, in Cleveland.



"I'm fine" when asked about his health, but did not provide any details.

Pistons 115, Nets 106

In Detroit, Blake Griffin and the Pistons are on a roll heading into their matchup with his former team.

Griffin scored 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and Andre Drummond added

17 points and 27 rebounds to lift the Pistons to their fifth straight victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night. Detroit hasn't lost since acquiring Griffin last week in a trade with the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Clippers play at Detroit on Friday night.

"Obviously, I know all those guys really well. I can't say that

it's just another game," Griffin said. "At the end of the day, we're trying to get wins, they're trying to get wins. I'm not really the type of guy to be all buddy-buddy during the game."

Allen Crabbe had 19 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter for the Nets. They have lost four in a row and eight of nine.

"That's the Allen we want," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson

said. "Just more aggressive, more assertive, and if that means he's going to take a few bad shots a game, then we're OK with that."

Crabbe scored 16 of Brooklyn's points in a row during one fourth-quarter stretch, including a 3-pointer that cut Detroit's lead to three at 91-88. The Pistons put the ball in Griffin's hands after that, and

he scored nine of their next 11.

"He took over," coach Stan Van Gundy said. "He's done some good things since he's been here in the four games, but that was his best offense for us."

Rockets 109, Heat 101

In Miami, James Harden and Chris Paul finished off the Miami Heat.

"We got two assassins out there," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Harden scored 41 points and the Houston Rockets beat the Miami Heat for their sixth straight victory and 10th in 11 games.

Paul added 24 points, seven assists, and seven rebounds for the Rockets.

"We just hooped," Paul said. "Me and Coach was talking about it. I think that's what I came here for. That's what we talked about this summer. We can play off of each other and you've still got something in the tank at the end of the game. That's a good feeling to see down the stretch in the fourth quarter, we're still fresh."

Harden eclipsed the 40-point mark for the eighth time this season. He was 13 of 25 from the field, going 5 of 12 from 3-point, and hit 10 of 12 free throws. He also had six assists and rebounds.

"Just having the opportunity to play with another great player -- I played with some great players, some really good players, but probably nobody the caliber of James," Paul said. "You try not to get caught up in watching what he's doing, but it's special. The scary thing is he can keep getting better."

Josh Richardson, who scored 30 points for the Heat, drew the assignment of guarding Harden most of the night.

Jazz 92, Grizzlies 88

In Memphis, Ricky Rubio had 29 points and eight rebounds, Rodney Hood scored 18 and the Utah Jazz beat the Memphis Grizzlies for their seventh straight victory.

Utah's latest win was hardly indicative of its recent play on offense. During the streak, the Jazz had averaged almost 118 points and 52 percent shooting. They made only 42 percent of their shots against Memphis.

Andrew Harrison led the Grizzlies with a career-high 23 points, and Marc Gasol scored 20. JaMychal Green and Dillon Brooks added 11 apiece as Memphis lost its fifth straight.

Utah led by 11 in the fourth quarter, but Memphis cut it to 80-74 midway through the period. Utah never let Memphis get any closer. Mario Chalmers made a 3-pointer as the horn sounded for the final margin.

Warriors want to upgrade bench

OAKLAND (AP)—The Warriors' goal ahead of Thursday's NBA trade deadline is clear: They want to upgrade their bench, which has underwhelmed in recent weeks.

Specifically, they're looking for someone who can provide consistent offense off the bench, and if that player can make a 3-pointer, it'd be a godsend.

Yes, the Warriors have plenty of players they're targeting—general manager Bob Myers said he's talked to two-thirds of the league's teams ahead of the deadline—but Brooklyn guard Spencer Dinwiddie should be the player at the top of Golden State's wish list.

Since Christmas, the Warriors' bench has been a negative unit, allowing six more points than they've scored. The culprit behind this turnaround—the Warriors had the second-best plus-minus

rating in the league last year (plus-185)—is obvious: they can't shoot 3-pointers. Golden State is shooting 28 percent from beyond the arc since Christmas Day—the second-worst mark in the NBA. The most concerning thing is that it's coming on the second-fewest 3-point attempts.

The Warriors' poor shooting from distance is clearly in their heads.

Nick Young was supposed to be the instant offense from deep off the bench this season, but the microwave's power source—whatever that might be—is often missing; Young has more often been unplayable than competent and Steve Kerr clearly doesn't know which side of the enigma will show up on any given night. And if there's one thing you want in a player, come the playoffs, it's wild unpredictability.

Young's competition at

the backup shooting guard spot, Patrick McCaw, is in a similar place. McCaw, who was so strong for the Warriors late last year and in the playoffs, has looked totally lost as of late. His confidence in jump shot is emaciated and he's literally spinning around on defense. He too has been unplayable for Kerr as of late.

Omri Casspi is fighting through injury and the sporadic playing time that comes with that, but even when healthy, he hasn't lived up to expectations. He's made a total of nine 3-pointers this year. He's provided solid contributions as a backdoor cutter and surprisingly prodigious rebounder, but the Warriors need him to be less of a forward and more of a guard, and that's something he hasn't been able to do in his first season with the team.

Shaun Livingston and David West have both been great for the Warriors off the bench

this season—truly fantastic—but both of their offensive games are well established. West is all about that 17-foot jumper and Livingston has that 10-foot turnaround. Neither is a factor from beyond the arc.

Same goes for the backup big-men: Jordan Bell, Kevon Looney, and JaVale McGee.

Their offensive games are limited, consisting of the open look under the hoop and finishing an alley-oop lob.

And Andre Iguodala, well, that's a while thing.

Iguodala has shown that he can ramp his game up to its highest level at times this season, but overall, he's having the worst shooting season of his career, making 43 percent of his attempts from the field and 23 percent of his 3-pointers. Since Christmas, he's shooting 19 percent from beyond the arc.

Add it all up, and the Warriors' need is undeniable.

Jeter acknowledges decisions have been unpopular

M I A M I
 (AP)—Derek Jeter acknowledged he has made unpopular decisions in the offseason since taking over the Florida

Marlins as a part owner.

Since taking over as chief executive, Jeter has traded away Giancarlo Stanton, Dee Gordon, Marcell Ozuna and Christian Yelich.

Saipan Country Club hosts invitational tournament

By JON PEREZ
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 REPORTER

 Local golfers that learned how to play the game at the Saipan Country Club are invited to join a tournament set for March 24 at the nine-hole golf course in Chalan Kiya.

CNMI Federation of Golf Association president David Largent, who is helping organize the tournament, said they are hoping to invite Saipan or CNMI residents that have fond memories of the golf facility. SCC is a 2,766-yard and par-34 layout course and the first on Saipan as it opened more than 40 years ago. Slots for the invitational tournament are limited and the competition will be held as part of the first anniversary celebration of Saipan Vegas.

"As [SCC] only have nine holes and this is a special event, we want to invite residents that grew up on the

golf course, learned to play golf there, and have enjoyed years of memories that we want to preserve and revive. [SCC] is at the heart of golf and golfers on Saipan," said Largent.

He added that it would be much better if the "old timers" that have a lot of stories to share about the SCC's long history are able to share them again.

"Everyone loves a good story. I would like to know their names, contact information, and a short or long story of their relationship with SCC. Most importantly, we are looking for old pictures and [other] memorabilia that may be around over the years," said Largent.

"Hopefully we could use this amazing treasure to get more people, young and old, to start playing golf and keep the golf culture of the CNMI healthy and growing."

For more information, email cfga.golf@gmail.com.

TSUNAMI

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"We try our best to train these young swimmers so we can send many of them to Guam," the Tsunami Saipan official said.

Among the club's young members, Kimura made special mention of four—the Barmans, Fiona Regan, and Ma—who are showing significant improvements.

"The siblings are so talented. Shuman will be a rising star in this season or next. His younger brother Sari has

a strong potential," Kimura said.

Fiona has already earned BB time and also has few events with very close to BB times. I can say Fiona has the best chance to make it to the Guam tournament among our young swimmers," Kimura said.

As for Ma, Kimura is impressed with the beginner.

"Justin is a newcomer, but his swimming skills are very good. Justin still belongs to our beginner class but I'm sure he will be promoted to advanced class soon," the Tsunami Saipan head coach said.

Cific Oceania had a 1-0 lead over Malaysia and was ahead in the second singles match to move closer to the semis berth. Carruthers played in the first singles match and eked out a 7-6, 7-6 win over Theivija Selvarajoo. In the second singles game, Apisah won the first set of her duel against Suhana Sofia, 6-2, and was ahead in the second, 5-0. Apisah and Carruthers were also set to play in the doubles for the Gilles De Gouy-captained Pacific Oceania.

If Pacific Oceania wins, it will face No. 1 seed and world No. 33 Uzbekistan in the semifinals. Uzbekistan swept Pool A after blanking Lebanon and New Zealand.

CAROL

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the elimination round matches will advance to the playoffs, while the finalists will be promoted to Group I in 2019.

Lee and company were slated to duel Malaysia, which came from a 3-0 victory over Iran on Day 2 of the competition. Pacific Oceania is slightly favored over Malaysia, based on the results of the former's first two games. The No. 55 Malaysia, which is seeded third in the tournament behind No. 33 Uzbekistan and No. 48 Philippines won by only a point against Oman in its first game, 2-1.

At press time last night, Pa-

"I understand the frustration of a fan," Jeter said. "The bottom line the way I looked at it was it's been a challenge for us getting people to the stadium for years. And from everything I have heard, the challenge is because there has not been a winning product on the field. So if there is not a winning product on the field, you have to make a change. It's a team that has not been to the postseason since 2003 and hasn't had a winning record in years. And in my mind that's unacceptable and it should be unacceptable for the fans. The only way for us to fix that is to make some changes. Like I said, I know it's unpopular."

Jeter made the remarks during a 30-minute question and answer session with guests at the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Trustee Luncheon on Wednesday afternoon with a few hundred in attendance.

A guest asked Jeter why players have been dealt and what the plan is moving forward.

"We have a long-term stra-



AP
 Miami Marlins co-owner Derek Jeter speaks during town hall meeting at Marlins Park in Sunrise, Fla., Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017.

tegic plan to make this organization sustainable over time," Jeter said. "The only way to do that is to invest in our minor league system, player development, and scouting. The only way you can be sustainable is you have to have a pipeline of players that are coming up through the organization. From my initial press conference I mentioned that there were going to be some unpopular decisions that are going to be made, but just know that every decision that we make is for the betterment of this organization. I played for 20-plus years and trust me, when I was a player I didn't have a lot of patience. It was pretty simple. You either win or you lose. And it's the same thing now in an ownership position is you win or you lose."

"And even though there have been some unpopular decisions, every decision we make is to make the Miami Marlins organization the best organization, a first-class organization from the players to the front office to our fans. This is an organization that will be in envy of other Major League franchises over time. I'm learning that you have to have some patience because nobody wants it to happen sooner than I do, but we will have to have some patience. And what I mean by patience, that does not mean we will not be competitive. We will be competitive. Every single person that takes the field for this organization is going to be playing like they're playing to keep their job. That's the attitude I had when I played and that's the attitude everyone will have to have in the organization."

Tinian BCO certification courses set in March

By JON PEREZ
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 REPORTER

Tony Rogolifoi has moved the Baseball Confederation of Oceania coaches and umpires certification courses to mid March after getting tied up with his other obligations in some organizations he leads.

Rogolifoi is a BCO-certified coaches and umpires instructor aside from being the Saipan Baseball League coordinator and the Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director. Rogolifoi was also assigned by BCO developmental officer Ray Brown to head the sport's development in the Mi-

cronesia region.

He was set to conduct the certification courses on Tinian last week but had to cancel them.

"The certification courses are tentatively set in mid March since I need to finish other matters here. The clinic will push through since it is only a matter of scheduling problems. I'm expecting 20 or more who are interested to get certified," added Rogolifoi.

He said that he would be conducting classes similar to the ones he had on Rota.

"Coaching is very complicated and it is not that easy. It's



the same thing with umpiring. You need to know the basic

rules before moving on. There will be two parts, classroom discussion of the rules and after that application. There would also be a test made up of 100 questions to see their basic knowledge of baseball rules," Rogolifoi said.

He added the eight newly certified umpires and coaches on Rota now have better understanding of the basic rules and are ready to apply what they have learned in their upcoming Little League season.

"They ask questions if things

are not that clear. Knowledge of the rules is necessary to avoid any protest and other problems that might happen in the game. It's much better if one is knowledgeable both in coaching and umpiring," the SBL official explained.

Rogolifoi's certification courses are in line with the opening of the Little League season on Rota and Tinian. He will conduct the same courses on Saipan as he aims to help the CNMI baseball program produce more coaches and umpires.

For more information on the BCO certification courses, call Rogolifoi at 234-6672.

MAMIKO

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was fourth (4:01:11). Haley Walker was the other non-U.S. finisher in the Top 5 as the Canadian clocked in at 4:10:11.

Berger, even at an altitude of 4,326 feet, seemed to have not encountered any problems in the race. In an interview with *journalaz.com*, she said that she didn't mind the altitude and just enjoyed the race and the view that came with it.

"I was told that I would have a problem with the altitude as well as the temperature, but once I started I just forgot about it and just looked at the scenery. It's just breathtaking. It's so beautiful. I could go back [and run it] one more time," Berger was quoted as

saying in the *journalaz.com* story. *Saipan Tribune* sent a message to Berger yesterday to ask for her comments about her win, but has yet to respond at press time.

Berger, who shaved off 26 seconds from Stacey Mulligan's winning time of 3:37:51 last year, added she did not take a different approach in the race that had Randi Simon as the inaugural winner in 2006 (3:36:38). Polly Campbell holds the record time (3:06:55) in the event.

Before moving to Thailand and competing in various races in Asia and the U.S., Berger represented the CNMI in numerous regional events. She won two gold medals in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, ruling the 5,000 meter run (21:11.62) and 10K road

race (46:09.40) when Koror hosted the quadrennial Games.

She then clocked in 1:42:26.67 to clinch the bronze medal in the half marathon event in the 2008 Oceania Athletics Championships hosted by Saipan. She finished behind Guam's Marie Benito (1:35:20.83) and then NMI bet Mieko Carey (1:39:32.28).

Berger also competed in the 2014 Emerald Bay Marathon in California, placing eighth in the 40-49 age group and 15th overall with a time of 4:40:19.7. In the same year, she finished first in her age group and second overall in the California-Nevada Marathon (4:01:12).

In local races, Berger is a perennial contender, winning the Mt. Tapochau Turkey Trot Race a couple of

occasions with the last one in 2015 after timing in at 41:52. She is also a six-time

Saipan Marathon women's champion, topping the race for the first time in 2008 (3:51:28). Berger holds the event's record (3:09:49) when she ruled the 2012 edition of the race and broke the 3:10:03 mark (2010) of Japan's Mayu Mochizuki. Her other Saipan Marathon wins were in 2009 and from 2014 to 2016.

Meanwhile, Adam Owens of Flagstaff, Arizona won the men's crown with a time of 2:55:56 and a 6:43 per kilometer pace. The race, according to *journalaz.com*, attracted 2,543 participants from 46 states and five countries. The event also had half marathons and 10K and 5K runs.

Betde gets back at CTSI Petmalu

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Betde got even with CTSI Petmalu following a 3-2 win in their second meeting in the co-ed U12 division of Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Mark Roque and Kaithlynn Chavez scored in Betde's victory over CTSI Petmalu, which posted a 3-1 triumph in their first round duel during the opening day of the competition late last month. Roque had a pair of goals when Betde faced CTSI Petmalu anew with his first in the opening half tying the match. Carvin Cruzat registered CTSI Petmalu's goal in the first half and added one more in the second. Roque countered in the final half for another deadlock, which was broken by Chavez's conversion.

With Betde's victory, it joined CTSI Petmalu on top of the team standings as the two



teams earned similar 2-1 win-draw-loss records. Tinsel Toes (1-1-1) and Kanoa Ali'i (0-1-2) are the other squads in the division and played in the lone U12 match last night and results of their game were unavailable at press time.

In the co-ed U15 division, Fake Madrid is alone at the No. 1 spot as it now holds a perfect 4-0-0 mark after crushing Marianas United (0-0-4), 12-1.

Rintaro Miyawaki powered Fake Madrid to another lopsided win after firing four goals. Blake Mister, Paulynn Joyce, Kaden Church, and Stella McCallion contributed two apiece. John Mark Anastacio made the lone goal for the winless Marianas United. CNMI United (1-0-2) and Betde United (2-0-1) complete the co-ed U12 field and were hoping to keep up with Fake Madrid as they squared off in last night's second match.

In other results, Bruv pulled off a 3-2 triumph in the battle of unbeaten teams in the co-ed U18 division.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CTSI Petmalu, left, and
Betde players go after
the ball during their first
round meeting in the
co-ed U12 division game in
Saipan Soccer School's
2018 Youth Futsal
Tournament at the TSL
Sports Complex.

Guine Borja delivered two goals for Bruv, including the go-ahead in the second half, while Mareko Tekopua added one. Oliver Lee made both goals for the Kensington Hotel-backed Suplex City.

Bruv extended its win streak to three to keep the division lead, while Suplex City dropped to a 2-0-1 slate for second place in the team standings in the six-squad field. Suplex City was trying to regain its form quickly as it squared off against the winless Islanders FC (0-0-3) last night.

Meanwhile, all the 14 teams participating in the tournament will see action this Sunday. In the co-ed U12 division, the pairings are Betde vs Kanoa Ali'i and Tinsel Toes vs CTSI Petmalu. In the U15 division, Marianas United and CNMI United will play in the first game in their age group, while Fake Madrid will take on Betde United in the other match. In the U18, the triple-header will have Islanders vs Bruv; Suplex City vs CTSI Petmalu; and ABCD FC vs La Fabrica.

Aces, Falcons to open SBL season

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Last year's finalists Aces and Falcons will have an early rematch as they open the 2018 Saipan Baseball League season on Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.

Best Sunshine Inc. is the sponsor of the defending champions Aces, who will be handled by player/coach Luis Iguel, while the Natibu Sports Association supports the Doru Camacho-managed Falcons. The Aces defeated the Falcons, 3-1, in their best-of-five title series last year, securing the championship with a 2-1 decision in Game



4. The Aces won Games 1 (9-3) and 3 (13-9), while the Falcons were victorious in Game 2 (12-8).

Right after the Aces-Falcons rematch, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation-backed Blue Jays of manager Froilan Tenorio will take the field when it faces the Outlaws of Manny Salas on Tuesday. The remaining games in the opening week will be released later, as SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is still finalizing the entire schedule of the season, which he expects to finish early.

"Everything is ready. The games will be everyday so we expect to have a quick season. We want to finish

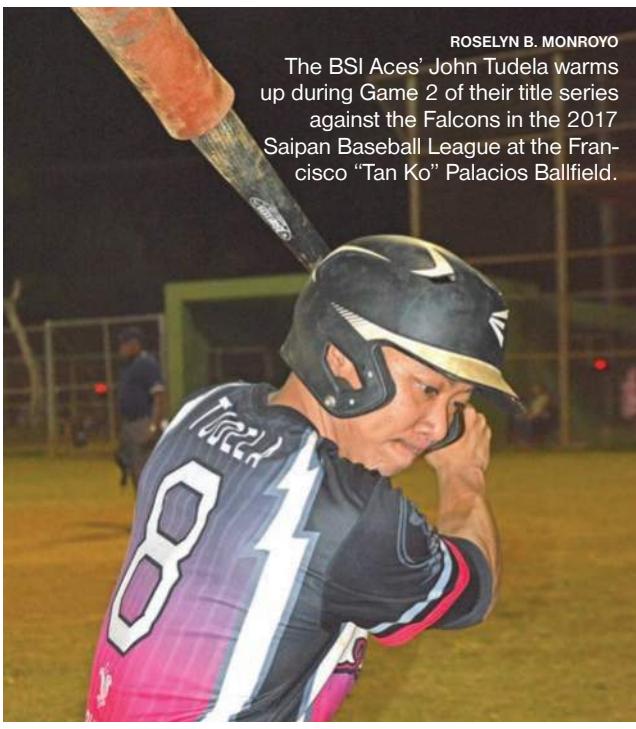
early so the CNMI baseball team that will compete in the [2018] Micronesian Games will have enough time to practice," he said.

Rogolifoi added that in case the season takes time to complete, they will have to temporarily suspend the games and resume them after the CNMI national team returns from Yap, which will be hosting the quadrennial sporting event from July 15 to 28.

"We are hoping the weather would fully cooperate so we don't have any rain delays or cancelled games. It's the dry season, so we're going to fully take advantage of the sunny weather," Rogolifoi added.

SBL games, which will be played from Monday thru Friday starting at 6:30pm, also return to the nine-inning format. The league earlier had its Masters and Under 25 divisions played in only seven innings.

The island's premier baseball league will have 10 teams. The Ballistics of manager Jay Camacho is the last squad to enter the 2018 competition and one of the three new teams in the field, joining the Ed Cepeda-handled Outlaws and the Mariners of Shine Tenorio. The C.K. Bears (Rep. J.P. Sablan), D9ers (Saipan Stevedores), Go See Mark (Mark Sablan), and Titanium (Senate President Arnold I. Palacios), are the other competing teams.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The BSI Aces' John Tudela warms up during Game 2 of their title series against the Falcons in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Spring youth league kicks off tomorrow, draws 60 teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League will start tomorrow and will feature 60 teams spread throughout eight age groups.

The non-competitive co-ed U11 division has the most squads with 11, as MP United Football, Paire Football Club, and Kanoa Football Club are fielding two teams each in the group.

Matansa Football Club, Shirley's Football Club, Southern United Football Club, TanHoldings Football Club, and Timian Premier Football Club have one team apiece.

In the other non-competitive division, 10 squads will be playing in the co-ed U9, while seven each are competing in the co-ed U13B and co-ed U6.

In the competitive division, the girls U16 age group

has seven teams, while the boys U18, co-ed U13A, and boys U15 category have six squads each. The number of teams in the spring league is more than the 2017 fall season's total (47), as the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association made some modifications in the age groups.

Both games in the non-competitive and competitive ages in the different age groups will be played at the various school fields.

At the Hopwood Middle School Field, MP United and Paire will open the hostilities in the boys U18 division as they collide in the 8:10am match.

Two other games will be played in the division with Matansa battling TanHoldings at 9:50am and Kanoa dueling National

Development Academy at 11:30pm. NDA is made up of players under the national training pool.



Hopwood will also host matches in the co-ed U13A and the triple-header will have MPU vs Paire; Matansa against TanHoldings; and Kanoa-1 opposite Kanoa-2.

Over at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field in San Antonio, MPU will meet Southern United in the first girls U16 tiff, while the two other pairings in the division are TanHoldings vs Paire and Kanoa over Matansa.

In the boys U15 division games at the Koblerville Elementary School Field, MP United will have its season debut against Paire, while Matansa will meet TanHoldings, and Kanoa will challenge Shirley's.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Paire Football Club goalie goes for a catch during their boys U15 division game against MP United FC in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the Koblerville Elementary School Field. Youth football action returns this Saturday when the league opens its spring season.



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LeBron's jumper at OT buzzer hands Cavs win

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carol crushes opponent



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee showed no mercy to her foe from Oman to lead Pacific Oceania to another shutout win in the 2018 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II.

Lee pounded the hapless Maryan Al Balushi, 6-0, 6-0, in the first singles match in the Oman-Pacific Oceania pairing last Wednesday at the Bahrain Tennis Federation hard courts in Isa Town, Bahrain to set up her squad's 3-0 victory. The sweep over Al Balushi was a fitting follow up on the CNMI junior player's 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Iran Kimiya Asbaghipour during their second singles duel in the opening day of the competition last Tuesday.

After Lee's domination of the first singles player of Oman, the former's teammate Abigail Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea handed Pacific Oceania the outright win in the pairing after outclassing Fatma Al Nabhani. Tere-Apisah, who made



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here getting ready for a return in a local tournament, earned another lopsided win in the 2018 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II in Bahrain last Wednesday.

it to the doubles finals of the Australian Open (Juniors) last month, labored a 7-5 (7-4) win over Al Nabhani in the opening set and then had another tough time in the second before escaping with a 7-5 triumph.

The PNG player also played

in the doubles and she and Samoa's Steffi Carruthers kept Pacific Oceania's clean slate in Pool C after easing past Al Balushi and Asifa Al Suleiman, 6-0, 6-1.

With Pacific Oceania unbeaten after two games and

holding a 6-0 record, pending results of their game against Malaysia yesterday, Lee and her teammates boosted their playoff chances in the tournament. The top finisher in each pool after

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's up-and-coming members pose for a photo during a break in their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.

Tsunami Saipan touts promising swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura believes the future is bright for his club as they have several promising swimmers in their stable.

Kimura mentioned 12 up-and-coming Tsunami Saipan swimmers who are capable of showing impressive performance in local and off-island meets. The list includes Elin Kim, Julio Monserrat, Sari and Shuman Barman, Nagisa

Mamiko rules Sedona Marathon

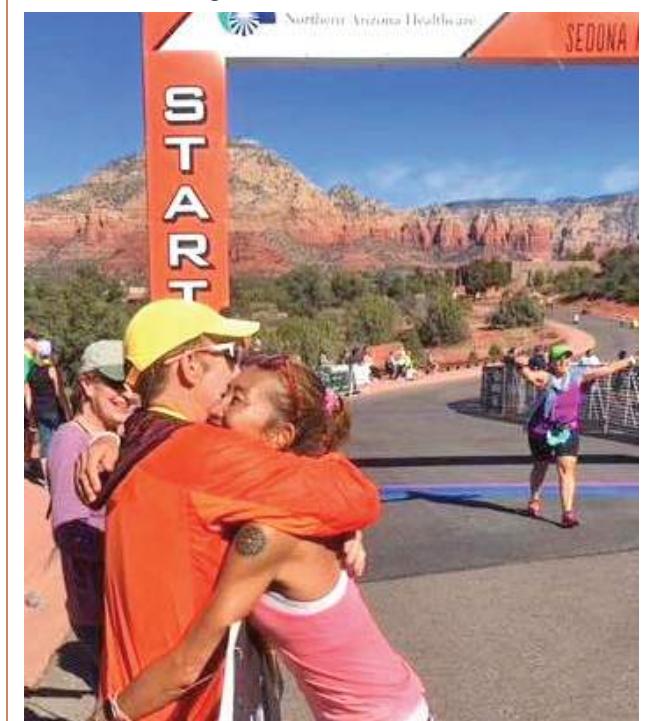
By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Former Saipan resident Mamiko Berger continues to make waves in long distance races, this time clinching the women's crown in the 13th Annual Sedona Marathon held last Friday in Sedona, Arizona.

Berger, who is now based in Bangkok, Thailand with husband Joshua, completed the full marathon in 3:37:26 to finish first among the more

than 50 female runners. She registered a pace of 8:18 per kilometer, coming in at 10th overall among the 188 participants that survived the challenging 42.2-kilometer course. She was way ahead (17:41 lead) of closest pursuer Maria Ladd of Albuquerque, New Mexico (3:55:07). Mallory Ortego of La Palata, New Mexico came in at third with a time of 3:57:41, while Hewitt, Texas native Amy Johnson

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mamiko Berger, right, receives a congratulatory hug from her husband Joshua at the finish line after winning the 13th Annual Sedona Marathon last Friday in Sedona, Arizona.

Litulumar, Fiona and Cassie Regan, Arwen Bartolata, Rafael and Raven Pascual, Sakura Hara, and Justin Ma. These swimmers have achieved or are close to getting the standard times that Tsunami Saipan set for them to compete in various tournaments.

"We set higher standard times that Tsunami Saipan should meet. If a swimmer wants to go to a Guam meet, she or he has to get more than three BB times in the age

Tsunami group. For the Japan meets, our qualifying time is AA," Kimura said.

"We always encourage our swimmers to think about the next level once they achieved their earlier goal (time standard)," the club's head coach added.

Kimura also said that every season, they are focused on bringing more Tsunami Saipan swimmers to the Guam meet.

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